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**BC streak comes
to an end
in South Bend**
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2005

50¢

Army pushes for fixed rest periods for deployed troops

Plan calls for 1 year on, 2 years at home for active duty, to start in '07 Page 6



Army starts issuing uniform with major makeovers

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Brig. Gen. Rich McPhee, left, and Col. John Norwood talk Tuesday while their troops from the 48th Infantry Brigade, Georgia Army National Guard, receive new combat uniforms at Fort Stewart, Ga. McPhee is dressed in the old-style uniform while Norwood is dressed in the new uniform. The pattern for the new camouflage coat and trousers is a mix of light green, tan and gray and is designed to allow soldiers to blend into urban, desert and forest environments.

AP
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PETER PHOTIKOE/Stars and Stripes

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

French work week: French lawmakers voted Wednesday to let workers stay on the job as many as 13 hours longer each week, a preliminary move that critics say will dismantle the nation's legally mandated 35-hour work week. In a first reading, the lower house of parliament voted 370-180 to approve a proposal allowing private sector employees to work up to 48 hours each week — the European Union limit. The measure now goes to the Senate for debate next month.

Madrid train bombings: A judge sent two more Moroccans to jail Wednesday on provisional charges of collaborating with a terrorist group in connection with the deadly Madrid train bombings last year, a court official said.

Rachid Mohamed Kaddur and Rachid Bendouda had been questioned first by National Court Judge Juan Del Olmo on Monday evening, but the judge had extended their detention order another 48 hours until police gathered more information about them.

Mohamed Kaddur, a 35-year-old Spaniard, was arrested Thursday night in Melilla, one of two Spanish enclaves on the coast of Morocco. Bendouda was arrested Wednesday in the Madrid neighborhood of Lavapiés. Both are believed to have met with key bombing suspect Abdennabi Kounjaa the day before the attacks.

British sub in Gibraltar: A British nuclear submarine which angered Spain when it docked at Gibraltar for repairs left the disputed colony Wednesday as promised, a British military official based in Gibraltar said.

The HMS Sceptre arrived in Gibraltar last Thursday for repairs to what Britain called a faulty diesel generator. Spain lodged a diplomatic protest with Britain, urging it not to send any more nuclear subs to Gibraltar.

Military

Air Force Academy alcohol abuse: Alcohol offenses at the Air Force Academy jumped 57 percent last semester, largely because of an incident in which 15 underage cadets were drinking at a retreat, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

The Gazette of Colorado Springs, citing academy officials, said there were 74 alcohol offenses between June and December, compared with 47 in the same period in 2003.

Alcohol is a crucial issue at the school near Colorado Springs: Forty percent of sexual assaults in which two cadets were involved in the past 10 years also involved



Tsunami relief: An Acehese girl looks on Wednesday as residents search for used clothes donated by an aid agency on a beach in the tsunami-ravaged town of Calang, Aceh province. Indonesia said 640 more bodies had been pulled from the rubble in the province hit by the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami, raising the country's confirmed death toll to 116,396.

drinking, according to a 2003 Air Force investigation.

U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe: A private arms control group says the United States still deploys 480 nuclear weapons in Europe, more than twice what military analysts previously estimated. It said there was no justification for such stockpiles since the Soviet threat no longer exists.

The report by the Natural Resources Defense Council said the weapons are stored at eight bases in six countries — Germany, Britain, Italy, Belgium, Turkey and the Netherlands.

States

Jammed N.H. telephone lines: The former head of a Republican consulting group was sentenced Tuesday to five months in jail for jamming Democratic telephone lines in several New Hampshire cities during the 2002 election.

Allen Raymond, 37, who was president of the Alexandria, Va.-based GOP Marketplace LLC at the time, did not comment as he left the U.S. District Court sentencing. He also was fined \$15,600. He had pleaded guilty in June.

Court papers say Raymond and co-conspirators plotted to jam Democratic lines that voters could call for rides to the polls in Manchester, Nashua, Rochester and Clare-

mont.

Presidential public financing: Two election officials on Wednesday renewed a proposal to overhaul the Watergate-era presidential public financing system, this time suggesting that candidates who take taxpayer money for the primaries get to spend at the record levels President Bush and rival John Kerry did during last year's race.

The first step for Congress is deciding whether the system should be maintained or abolished, Federal Election Commission Chairman Scott Thomas and Vice Chairman Michael Toner wrote in a letter to congressional leaders. If it keeps public financing for the presidential race, the program should be substantially changed to make it more attractive to candidates, they said.

War on terrorism

Terror group leader's death: The alleged ringleader of a terror group accused of plotting to attack Americans and Kuwaiti security forces has died of heart failure while in prison, an Interior Ministry official said Wednesday.

Amer Khalf al-Enezi, believed to be in his 30s, had trouble breathing while in prison and was moved the Kuwaiti's Armed Forces Hospital, where he died late Tuesday, according to the official and the state-owned Kuwait News Agency.

Photo and stories from wire services

Clarification

A headline with Wednesday's story about a transfer of authority in Iraq should have said that the 1st Infantry Division's 4th Aviation Brigade has turned over its aircraft support mission to the 42nd Infantry Division.

Correction

In a Feb. 9 story about a federal court ruling, The Associated Press erroneously reported that a judge dismissed a lawsuit challenging the Army's right to force soldiers to serve past the dates of their enlistments. Instead, the judge rejected Spc. David Qualls' request for a preliminary injunction that would have removed him from active duty. He and seven other soldiers had filed suit challenging their active-duty extensions. That remains before the court.

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41st Transportation Company preparing to head back to Iraq

Vilseck soldiers send signature vehicles on their way to Kuwait

BY BEN MURRAY
Stars and Stripes

VILSECK, Germany — In a sign that the 41st Transportation Company (Palletized Load System) is fast approaching its second year-long deployment downrange, members of the unit sent the company's signature vehicles on the first leg of their journey to Iraq on Wednesday at the Vilseck military railroad.

Though the approximately 140 soldiers of the 41st won't leave Germany for several more weeks, the unit needed to get its 10-wheeled cargo trucks on the way so it can pick them up in Kuwait in March.

Once in the region, the unit will spend another year shuttling supplies around Iraq in a mission troops said they are more prepared to execute safely the second time around.

"We had to improve our driving technique" after the first time out, said Sgt. J.P. Cardona, a PLS driver.

The convoy drivers were forced to come up with methods on the fly to avoid hazards posed by Iraqi insurgents in the last deployment, learning on the job how to maneuver a successful convoy, he said.

"This time around, we've got a hard play book," Cardona said.

Before returning from its first deployment a year ago in March 2004, the 41st drove nearly a million miles to bases all around Iraq, hauling everything from live ammunition to soccer balls for Iraqi children, said the company's rear detachment commander, 1st Sgt. Stacy Penington.

While on the road, the convoys were attacked a number of times with makeshift bombs — which the military calls improvised explosive devices, Cardona said.

The unit did not suffer any battle injuries or deaths on the initial deployment.

"We had to change out a couple of tires," he said, adding, "That's close enough for me."

This time out, the soldiers are much better versed in identifying potential IEDs, said Lt. Col. Bruce Felt from the 18th Corps Support Battalion, a parent unit of the 41st.

Since coming back, the unit has also "focused a lot of our training toward convoy survivability, soldier survivability," and the situation on the ground in Iraq is much more "steady-state" than in the last deployment. That allows the



PHOTOS BY BEN MURRAY/Stars and Stripes

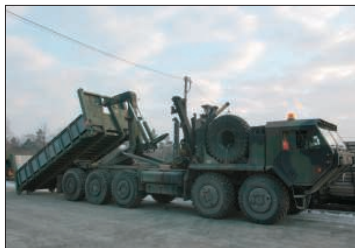
Above: Workers at the Vilseck military railroad position the back chassis of a Palletized Load System truck on a rail car Wednesday as the specialized vehicles of the 41st Transportation Company were sent on the first leg of their journey to Iraq. The 41st soldiers will be reunited with their vehicles in Kuwait in March. **Below:** One of the trucks drops off some supplies to be sent with a trainload of the vehicles. The specialized cargo trucks can load and unload their own containers in less than a minute.

41st to make shorter cargo runs on an improved hub-and-spoke supply system, he said.

In 2003 and early 2004, the 41st was driving up to 700 miles at a stretch to deliver supplies in their PLS trucks, he said. The slow, bulky vehicles can lift containers onto their own beds without the aid of a forklift or crane, and can also transport pallets of supplies.

The cabs of the trucks do have armor, said a spokesman for 3rd Corps Support Command, the logistics support unit for the 41st, but they will be re-evaluated when they reach Kuwait to see if they meet new Army standards before they are sent into Iraq.

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PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

Pentagon Channel on DISH Network

EchoStar Communications Corporation and its DISH Network satellite television service are now offering the Pentagon Channel, the Defense Department's news and information network for and about the military.

The Pentagon Channel, launched in 2004, will be provided to customers at no additional cost, but a second satellite dish may be required.

DISH Network customers will see Department of Defense news with hourly updates, broadcasts of each service's flagship television news magazine programs and Department of Defense news briefings from the Pentagon and around the world.

In addition to programming for the 1.4 million active-duty servicemembers, the Pentagon Channel will provide the 1.2 million Guardians and reservists and 650,000 civilian DOD employees more timely access to military information and news.

The DISH Network is accessible from anywhere in the United States.

Outages during AFN upgrades

American Forces Network viewers will see a "momentary loss of service" as AFN upgrades its encoder hardware and software at the AFN Broadcast Center during the week of Feb. 21, the network announced Tuesday.

The outages will last for "a couple of seconds," said Jerry Shorter, chief of broadcast engineering at the center. Shorter also said that they will try to take advantage of the time differences with the audience and schedule any work when "it'll have the least impact, with the fewest people watching."

Scientific-Atlanta will first upgrade the PowerVue encoder hardware that serves the Pacific region. A day or two later, it will upgrade the system that services the Atlantic region.

Audiences overseas will lose the AFN signal as the company switches to the upgraded system on each AFN channel.

This scheduled maintenance is not related to the recent satellite outage experienced by AFN customers in the Far East.

From staff reports

Aviano training area being cleared

By KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

The Southern European Task Force (Airborne) has helped rid 1,000 acres of land of unexploded ordnance, clearing the way for the unit to train closer to home.

SETAF, working closely with the Italian army, spent about \$5 million to identify unexploded ordnance on a large piece of land northeast of Aviano Air Base, Italy, that once was used as a bombing range by allied aircraft.

"This joint Italian-American project has recovered four square kilometers of training land," said Perry Doerr, deputy chief of training for SETAF. "It's a real win-win situation for both militaries."

The land is part of an area commonly called the Dandolo Range, which is controlled by Italy's 132nd Mechanized Infantry Brigade from nearby Maniago. It is adjacent to the Juliet drop zone, which airborne troops regularly use for training.

But Doerr said the cleared parcel hasn't been usable by anyone since the Italian army took control of it in 1948 after the Italian air force stopped using it for bombing runs. Aircraft from several NATO countries had used the range after taking off from Aviano to practice bombing.

Ordnance finds haven't been limited to recent munitions. ABC S.A.S. of



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

Florence, the company hired to find the munitions, also found unexploded ordnance dating to World War II. The site formerly housed an airstrip used by Italians — and later Germans — and bombed by U.S. aircraft.

Italian explosive ordnance teams, under the command of Lt. Col. Giuseppe Tapparello, are clearing the unexploded ordnance after it is identified. The process is scheduled to be completed in March.

That means SETAF soldiers won't be using the land for at least a year, since they're bound for a long deployment to Afghanistan in the coming weeks. Italian forces will use the property for the same purpose, control access to the area and determine when training takes place.

Italian Army Col. Salvatore Bordon-

aro, deputy chief of staff for SETAF, called the project "again a sign of the full cooperation and partnership that exists between Italy and the USA."

Doerr said soldiers — American and Italian — currently parachute onto the Juliet zone, then have to wait for transportation before moving to nearby land and resuming the training.

Because the newly cleared land is between the drop zone and additional training area, soldiers now could march or take military vehicles between the two areas — engaging in a training scenario the entire time. That's similar to what soldiers are able to do in Hohenfels and Grafenwörth in Germany. The entire training area, much of it formed by a pair of river beds, stretches for more than 21 miles.

"It's a benefit that soldiers south of the Alps don't have to go north now to carry out a full-blown airborne assault," said Lt. Col. Ed Manning, chief of training for SETAF. Soldiers still won't be firing live ammunition on any of the training areas — there's another range nearby for that.

Doerr said local residents should be happy with the project.

"Other than the fact that they don't have a lot of stuff that's going to blow up in their back yards, they shouldn't notice a difference," he said.

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SETAF rear detachment has fresh perspective

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — When the Southern European Task Force (Airborne) begins to deploy for a yearlong mission to Afghanistan later this month, it won't be leaving a lot of soldiers behind.

But what the rear detachment's lacking in numbers could be offset by a different figure: 51.

That's the combined number of years the top two officers in the detachment have in the military. Maj. Gen. David Zabecki and Navy Cmdr. Ken O'Brien will also bring a little different perspective to the job.

"I feel whether I'm a Navy guy or an Army guy, I'm comfortable in this position," said O'Brien, who will serve as the detachment's executive officer.

"I've been serving 22 years, I've seen a lot of deployments and I have a lot of ties to this community."



O'Brien

He's on base as the liaison officer to SETAF from the 6th Fleet. He has had several additional roles since coming to the base more than two years ago. Most recently, he has been SETAF's deputy operations officer.

"You can't just be an LNO anymore," he said. "With the way the military is structured these days, you have to be an integrated part of the staff."

Zabecki, who was not available for comment, is the deputy chief of staff for mobilization and reserve affairs for the Installation Management Agency-Europe. He has almost three decades of serving in the Army Reserve and National Guard. Most recently, he has headed Army participation in 60th anniversary commemorations of World War II events across Europe.

A military historian, he has spent much of the past two decades in a variety of roles in Germany.

O'Brien said he initially thought he'd deploy to Afghanistan as well. But when that didn't

happen, he became a logical choice to help lead the rear detachment.

He and wife Deborah, a former Navy nurse, have two children attending school on base. They're just following in the footsteps of their dad, who attended Vicenza schools in the 1970s when his father was a sergeant major in the Army.

O'Brien promises to run a proactive organization.

"I can answer the same question from a spouse every week," he said. "Or, I can realize pretty quickly that we have not gotten on the required information. I don't want to be chasing my tail the whole time."

He has already started making regular appearances on the local AFN radio station. A toll-free, in-

ternational phone number and a Web site will be available for those outside Vicenza to get help. And O'Brien said the rear detachment will be just one of several organizations playing a support role on base.

Maj. Gen. Jason Kamiya, the SETAF commander, and Gen. B.B. Bell, the U.S. Army Europe commander, have made supporting families of deployed soldiers a high priority, O'Brien said. And that should make his job easier.

"I think in the Navy we've been used to long deployments on ships," he said. "The Army has had to face the same thing more recently. I have never, in my 22 years, seen an organization that has been put together to support a community like this one has."

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As 1st ID GIs head home, moms 'adopt' new troops

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

Some moms of 1st Infantry Division soldiers have adopted some new kids.

With their sons and daughters due home from Iraq any day now, the e-mail support group of about 70 Big Red One mothers who call themselves the "Family of One" wanted to keep supporting troops in the Middle East. They had formed last year through a 1st ID Web site and boosted not only other kids, but their soldiers through a hard one-year tour in Iraq.

Enter the Marines.

On Jan. 17, Barbara Holman and Donna Cranston, two 1st ID mothers who volunteer frequently at the United Service Organizations lounge in Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, were greeting troops there headed to and returning from Iraq.

A group of 120 Iraq-bound Marines from the Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 4, an EA-6 Prowler squadron from the 2nd Marine Air Wing in Cherry Point, N.C., got stuck overnight when their plane didn't arrive.

Holman and Cranston felt badly that the Marines were confined to their hotel for the evening, their last night in the United States before a seven-month tour. So they bought enough beer for each Marine to drink one in his hotel room, then got up the next morning to give them gifts and a good-bye hug before their early departure the next morning.

"I was flabbergasted with the outpour-

ing of support," said Sgt. Maj. Terry Kraker, the squadron's senior enlisted Marine, via e-mail from their duty post at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq.

"I have been in the Marine Corps for over 27 years and have been to a lot of places. I have never received this kind of support on my way out the door."



Holman

little time to find families to adopt the Marines from among the Family of One e-mail group, her friends and co-workers in Texas.

"The spirit is contagious," Holman said in an e-mail to Stars and Stripes. "Our Family of One is proud to 'defect' from supporting our returning 1st ID and move on to the Marines."

"These Americans are one of the reasons we are going to Iraq," Kraker said. "Our motto is 'Semper Fidelis,' meaning 'Always faithful,' and we will do just that. We are now a part of the Family of One."

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Commander to head new role in Iraq

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker has selected Brig. Gen. David M. Rodriguez to be the first leader of the brand-new position commander, Multi-National Division Northwest — Iraq.

Army Gen. George Casper, who has the top job commanding the overall Multinational Forces — Iraq, recently created the two-star billet. Rodriguez, who is now in line for a second star, will take his post around April 1, an Army official told

Stripes on Tuesday.

Rodriguez is currently the Joint Staff's Deputy Director for Regional Operations. He became a familiar face to military watchers after participating in several Pentagon briefings about Iraq in 2004.

Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Carter Ham, who as deputy commander in chief for training and readiness at 1 Corps and Fort Lewis, Wash., is also the commander of the Multi-National Brigade North in Iraq, will come to Washington to take Rodriguez' Joint Staff job, Army officials said.



KRISTEN CHANDLER TOTH/Courtesy U.S. Army

Sgt. Byron White bends down to embrace his daughters, Caitlyn, left, and Haley, right, while his wife, Stacy, holds back tears. White was deployed with the 9th Engineer Battalion to Iraq and returned to Schweinfurt, Germany, on Wednesday as part of a group of about 200 soldiers. They were greeted at a special welcome-home ceremony, held at Finney Fitness Center on Conn Barracks, and then separated to greet family and friends.

1st Infantry Division plans to transfer authority to 42nd ID

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

WÜRZBURG, Germany — The 1st Infantry Division has announced plans to transfer authority over its sector of Iraq next week to the 42nd Infantry Division, even as 1st ID troops continue to fly home to Germany.

Maj. Gen. John Bastiste will turn over command of his Tikrit-based headquarters to Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto in a ceremony at 1 p.m. Monday. The name of the command will change from Task Force Danger to Task Force Liberty.

The 42nd ID is part of the New York Army National Guard and is the first National Guard division activated for overseas service since the Korean War. Two veteran brigade combat teams from the 3rd Infantry Division, a regular Army unit based in Fort Stewart, Ga., and many National Guard and reserve units, will bolster the Rainbow Division's headquarters staff.

For 11 months, the 1st ID and its support-

ing units from the 25th Infantry Division and 30th Brigade Combat Team have patrolled a vast West Virginia-size region from Balad in the south to Kirkuk in the north, stretching east to the Iraq border. It includes the cities of Baiji, Tikrit, Samarra and Baquba.

Since the unit arrived in Iraq last year, 135 soldiers under 1st ID's command have been killed, including 73 from the division's own Germany-based units.

Seven more military flights from Iraq brought 700 more 1st ID soldiers home to Germany on Wednesday, said Spc. Rebecca Shampton, a division spokeswoman.

The largest groups included 185 troops from the Schweinfurt-based 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment; 120 from the Kitzingen-based 4th Battery, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment; and 109 from the Schweinfurt-based 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, and 84 from the Schweinfurt-based 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment.

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Investors sued over dealings with troops

BY LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A group of California attorneys has filed a class-action lawsuit against First Command Financial Planning that could result in payouts to military investors not included in last year's federal settlement.

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court of Southern California, asks for compensation for members of First Command's systematic investment plan, saying the company used "false and misleading marketing" in its dealings with troops.

First Command officials dismissed those accusations. "First Command Financial Planning is proud of its years of service to hundreds of thousands of military families," said Paul Czobor, a company spokesman. "We believe the complaint filed in San Diego contains numerous factual inaccuracies and erroneous conclusions, and we intend to vigorously defend the matter."

In December, federal regulators announced First Command would refund about \$4 million to customers who bought and sold the systematic investment plans between 1999 and 2004.

That settlement came after an investigation found the company's salespeople had misled military personnel about costs and returns associated with the plan. Company officials did not admit to or deny the charges, but have since stopped offering those funds.

Anyone who bought a systematic investment plan before Dec. 15 and did not sell the plan before that date could be eligible to

join the class-action suit, according to Norman Blumenthal, one of eight attorneys already signed on to the suit.

Blumenthal said the goal is to help customers not included in the federal settlement, but also "punished" by First Command's sales practices.

"You shouldn't put military personnel in a position where they're taking that much money away in fees," he said. "We think it's a bad plan."

The systematic investment plans took as much as 50 percent of investors' first-year savings in broker fees and the lawsuit states, higher-than-needed fees after that. Salespeople for the firm also are accused of lying about the likelihood of recouping that money, and misleading customers about better investment plans.

Blumenthal said First Command customers do not need to sign up to become part of the class — if a settlement or verdict award is reached, all those eligible will be able to recover money — but he is encouraging military personnel he speaks with to talk with a financial adviser about their investments.

"We're telling people there is no reason to stay in this plan," he said.

A lead plaintiff for the case is expected to be named by May 1, at which point the courtroom process will begin.

In addition to the \$4 million in refunds it was ordered to pay in the December federal settlement, First Command agreed to an \$8 million fine to be used to set up an investment education program for military personnel.

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Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Advanced EP-3E Aries II is shown in this Navy file photo flying near Japan's Mount Fuji. An EP-3 was forced to land in China in April 2003. The U.S. government hopes a China hot line will fix similar problems.

U.S., China discuss hot line

Official: Communication sought during incidents

BY JON R. ANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Nearly four years after a U.S. Navy spy plane was intercepted off China, the two nations are working on an agreement that would use a hot line between its defense departments, and clarify a "rules of the road" when aircraft or ships encounter each other.

If successful, the two-pronged effort would allow direct communication between the respective tops and bottoms of the two chains of command, and U.S. officials hope, diffuse future flashpoints.

Richard Lawless, the Pentagon chief of Asian affairs, led a team that met with Chinese brass in Beijing last week to discuss the proposals, according to a senior defense official, who spoke only on condition of anonymity.

U.S. leaders have raised the two ideas repeatedly in recent years, to no avail.

"We've been attempting to break the impasse," said the official. A spokesman for the Chinese embassy in Washington declined to comment on the negotiations.

"If an agreement like this had been in place, then at least there would have been an avenue to talk [during and after the spy plane incident], but that avenue doesn't exist, even to this day," said Pentagon spokesman Navy Lt. Cmdr. Greg Hicks.

"We'll never know what the end result might have been, but it certainly would have been nice to have some sort of protocol in place for the two pilots to talk to each other," said Hicks. And after the fact, even a hot line existed, it "would have made a huge difference" in getting the crew and aircraft released.

Lawless' visiters a trip to China by Joint Chiefs chairman Gen. Richard Myers a year ago and Pacific Command's chief Adm. Thomas Fargo's visit in July as relations between the two militaries have thawed since the EP-3 was forced down in April 2001.

Defense Secretary Donald

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has agreed in principle to pay an official visit to China, a significant step toward revitalizing a military-to-military dialogue forced into hiatus after a Navy surveillance plane and a Chinese fighter collided in international airspace in 2001.

"Secretary Rumsfeld is interested in visiting China this year," a senior Defense Department official said Tuesday. No final commitment had been made and no date had been set for a visit.

He said the most recent military and defense policy white paper released by the government in Beijing described in troubling ways the American military presence in the Pacific and characterized the security situation regarding Taiwan.

The American presence in the region "complicated security factors," The New York Times reported the Chinese military document as stating. And the situation in the waterway dividing Taiwan from the Chinese mainland is "grim," it added.

"During recent talks, Pentagon officials pressed their Chinese counterparts to explain those choices of words, which the Defense Department official described as "an escalation in the level of rhetoric."

The Chinese military's buildup across from Taiwan is "a substantial increase in capability" and "is an issue of concern to us," the official said.

In recent bilateral discussions, the question of expanding reciprocal visits has come up, with the American delegations pressing for improving the quality "of what we get to see and do," the official said.

Rumsfeld may soon add the weight of his office, as well. Rumsfeld has agreed in principle to a trip to China sometime this year, said the official [see story at right].

Lost in translation

The United States and China signed the Military Maritime Consultation Agreement in 1998, designed to provide clear instructions to pilots and warship captains when they meet their counterparts in international airspace and waters.

The details that were to follow — how to exchange calls signs and frequencies, even the use of hand and arm signals — never materialized.

The Chinese, said the official, have insisted on first agreeing to what constitutes international waters and airspace. The Chinese claim 200 miles off their coastlines, while international norms limit territorial claims to 12 miles.

"That's a huge issue for them. I'd be really surprised, bordering on stunned, if they were willing to separate that from the discussions," said Ted Carpenter, vice president for defense and foreign policy studies at the Cato Institute, a Washington-based think tank.

Now, said the defense official, the Chinese are holding the MMCA semi-hostage "over the dispute."

The idea of a hot line from the Pentagon to the Chinese ministry of defense may be closer to reality. Instead of rebuffing the proposal during this latest visit, the Chinese now say they are "studying seriously" the concept, said the official.

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Army pushes deployment test schedule

BY LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Army officials hope that more predictable deployment schedules for active duty soldiers, reservists and guardsmen will lead to a better-trained force with quicker response times.

Under a plan unveiled to Congress on Wednesday, active duty soldiers could expect two years at their home base after a year of deployment. Reservists would see five years of "dwell time" after each year in active duty service, and Guardsmen would have four to five years at home between deployments.

Army Secretary Francis Harvey said that plan likely won't go into effect until at least 2007, when other major training and force adaptations are complete. Officials want to shift the service to a brigade combat team focus over the next two years, growing from 33 brigades to 44.

But Harvey said more predictable de-

Plan calls for 1 year on, 2 years at home for active duty, 4-5 years at home for reserves

ployment schedules will create a better quality of life for soldiers by reducing stress on their families, which in turn will result in a more focused fighting force.

Of the 150,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, between 40 percent and 50 percent are from the Guard and Reserve. The figure is set to drop to 30 percent for the next rotation, beginning this summer, because many combat-ready Guard units are tapped out.

Last year, Congress mandated a temporary increase of 30,000 soldiers to address those personnel concerns.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker said that about 20,000 of those new soldiers have been recruited, and officials will hire 2,000 new recruits in the coming year to reach the 30,000 goal and keep the personnel numbers steady.

"You can cut down 300,000 trees in no time, but it takes longer to grow 30,000 back," he said, noting that the Army dropped its active duty numbers by hundreds of thousands of soldiers after the first Gulf War.

Members of the House Armed Services Committee praised the overall force upgrades, but House Democrats criticized Army officials for what they called a short-sighted 2006 budget proposal that could leave the war on terror undermanned and the postwar Army poorly equipped.

"Frankly, looking at this budget, it occurs to me that we could win this war but come out worse for it if we're not careful," said Rep. Ike Skelton, Miss., ranking Democrat of the House Armed Services Committee.

He warned that, unless permanent funding sources are found for new soldiers and equipment repairs, the Army could go back to "the hollow Army of the late 1970s and early 1980s... when soldiers could not train because their equipment was so poor and spare parts were scarce."

The service's 2006 budget proposal, a \$98.6 billion plan that sets goals for training and upgrading the brigade system but does not include costs associated with combat in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Army Secretary Francis Harvey acknowledged that will be paid for with a supplemental budget request, to be unveiled later this month. The supplemental will also be used to pay for the 30,000 new soldiers.

Harvey estimated that supplemental budgets will be needed to pay for equipment maintenance and other war-related expenses for at least two years after the Army withdrawals from the Middle East.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shanel@stripes.osd.mil

'Sea Fighter' changes look of U.S. Navy

BY SANDI DOUGHTON
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — The future of the Navy is sitting in a Walla Walla Island shipyard, and Lt. Cmdr. Brandon Bryan can't wait to take her for a spin.

"It's the Navy's hottest sports car," said the Seattle native, gazing at the burnished aluminum catamaran that will be his next command.

Dubbed "Sea Fighter," the 262-foot ship will be the fastest vessel in the fleet, except for a few small patrol boats. The conservative estimate is that its 66,000-horsepower engines will push it to 50 knots, or about 57 mph, but Bryan says top speed will probably be closer to 60 knots, or nearly 70 mph.

Looking like something out of an early James Bond movie, the Sea Fighter is a souped-up version of a high-speed passenger catamaran, said Matt Nichols, president of Nichols Brothers Boat Builders, winners of the \$46 million construction contract.

The design marks a revolution-



Lt. Cmdr. Brandon Bryan, left, and Cmdr. Mark Thomas stand by the 262-foot Sea Fighter catamaran last week in Fremont, Wash.

ary change for the Navy, which since World War II has been dominated by huge aircraft carriers, destroyers and cruisers.

Sea Fighter, which was christened last week, was designed to test the technology needed for a new class of ships that will be lighter, faster and more suited to today's military and maritime realities.

The Sea Fighter is able to enter waters as shallow as 11 feet. The ship is so maneuverable it can turn on a dime at low speeds, said Steve Nordtvedt, program manager for San Diego-based Titan, the prime contractor.

That flexibility will be a keystone of the new Navy, said Robert Work, a retired Marine colonel and navy analyst.

AER fund-raising campaign to begin

The annual Army Emergency Relief fund-raising campaign will run from March 1 to May 15, according to the Installation Management Agency-Europe.

AER is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to "helping the Army take care of its own," and has been the Army's emergency financial assistance organization since 1942.

AER funds are made available to commanders to provide financial help for soldiers with valid emergency needs. Soldiers in need can contact their Army Community Service office or local chapter of the American Red Cross.

Soldiers — active-duty and retired — who wish to contribute may do so through a monthly allotment from their pay or with a check or cash donation to campaign coordinators in their units. Contributors will get receipts for their donations, which are tax deductible.

Last year, more than 40,000 troops and their families received more than \$35 million in AER assistance.

For more information, go to www.aerhq.org.

Award nominations

National Guard members and reservists are being asked to nominate deserving employers for the 2005 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. Nominations can be made through Feb. 24.

The award, established in 1996, recognizes employers who support and make sacrifices to enable their employees to serve as Guardsmen and reservists. Fifteen employers were given the 2004 award.

Nominations can be made through the Web site of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, an agency of the Department of Defense, at www.esgr.mil.

From staff reports

Romania asks for GI's immunity to be waived

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

The investigation into the traffic accident in which a car driven by a Marine embassy guard collided with a taxi, killing a popular Romanian musician, has been completed, a Marine spokesman said Wednesday.

But according to a story in Monday's Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch, a Virginia State Police investigator who led the investigation into the Dec. 3 incident said the Marine was not drunk at the time and that the taxi driver was also to blame.

Staff Sgt. Christopher R. VanGoethem, 31, was commander of the Marine security detachment at the embassy when an embassy-owned Ford Expedition he was driving collided with a taxi, killing 59-year-old Teofil Peter, a veteran Romanian rocker and concert organizer.

VanGoethem submitted to breath and blood-alcohol tests at the time.

"His blood-alcohol content was not enough, by the [Romanian] police statement, for them to take action, nor would it have been enough had he been here," Investigator Rick Dowsett said, according to the Times-Dispatch.

The newspaper story quoted Dowsett as saying that the taxi driver was likely speeding, and that at 4:30 a.m. crash occurred at an intersection with confusing right-of-way rules.

Meanwhile, the Romanian government is still requesting that diplomatic immunity be waived for VanGoethem, who was taken out of Romania shortly after the accident and is now assigned to administrative duties at his battalion headquarters in Quantico, Va.

"The request of a waiver for immunity is still under consideration by the Department of

State," said Paul Oglesby, a spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest.

Since the incident, Romania has elected a new prime minister, Calin Popescu-Tariceanu, but Oglesby said the new government did not withdraw the request that VanGoethem be returned to Romania to face prosecution.

Because VanGoethem was a member of the embassy staff, he can be immune from facing criminal prosecution in Romania. But the State Department could choose to waive VanGoethem's immunity and have him returned to Romania.

Oglesby said he did not know who specifically within the State Department would be authorized to make that decision or when it could occur.

The incident is being investigated by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, which hired Dowsett to serve as an independent investigator, according to the Times-Dispatch.

According to Maj. Matthew Morgan, a spokesman for the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade in Camp Lejeune, N.C., the evidence has been turned over to VanGoethem's battalion commander. The commander will decide if the case should proceed to an Article 32 hearing, which could lead to charges being filed against VanGoethem and a court-martial.

VanGoethem is from Iron County, Mich., and is assigned to the Marine Security Guard Battalion headquarters in Quantico.

Morgan said that the State Department is being kept informed about the investigation. He said that preliminary investigations in death cases typically take one to two months and that the remaining investigation that could lead to a court-martial can take up to 10 months.

E-mail Charlie Coon at: coonc@mail.stripes.osd.mil

Army now issuing new camo uniforms

BY RUSS BYNUM
The Associated Press

FORT STEWART, Ga.—Army soldiers are being issued new fatigues with easy-to-use Velcro openings and a redesigned camouflage pattern that can help conceal them as they move rapidly from desert to forest to city in places like Baghdad.

"It might give you the extra second you need, save your life maybe," Sgt. Marcio Soares said Tuesday after trying on the new all-in-one camouflage uniform that is the first major redesign in Army fatigues since 1983.

Soares' unit, the Georgia National Guard's 48th Infantry Brigade, is the first to be issued the new fatigues as part of a \$3.4 billion Army-wide makeover being phased in over the next three years.

The uniform will replace the standard forest camouflage — green, brown and black — and the desert camouflage — tan, brown and grey — now used by U.S. troops in Iraq.

Twenty-two changes were made to the uniforms, most notably the new camouflage pattern. Instead of bold jigsaw swatches of colors, the new camouflage pat-

First new combat fatigues in 22 years

The first major redesign in Army fatigues is being phased in over the next three years. The \$3.4 billion makeover will replace the standard forest and desert camouflage with a new pattern as well as many other comfort and tactical improvements.

New Army combat uniform



Source: Army Program Executive Office

tern uses muted shades of desert brown, urban grey and foliage green broken into one-centimeter segments. Black was eliminated completely because it catches the eye too easily.

Other changes were prompted by complaints from soldiers in the field. Jacket and pocket but-

tons, which can snag on nets and other gear, have been replaced with zippers and Velcro.

Pockets at the jacket's waistline were moved to the shoulders, where soldiers can reach them while wearing body armor. And the uniforms have a looser fit, with more room to wear layers underneath.

Gs would welcome new death benefits

BY TERRY BOYD
Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WILSON, Iraq — American soldiers in Iraq say they welcome the proposals to nearly double some death benefits.

Increases are "long overdue" for survivors' benefits such as the death gratuity, "because \$12,000 barely covers the cost of a funeral," said 2nd Lt. Kenneth Rivard, 3rd Squadron, 278th Regimental Combat Team, from the Tennessee National Guard.

The Department of Defense is proposing to raise the death gratuity to \$100,000 from \$12,420 currently, and the maximum life insurance caps to \$400,000 under Servicemembers Group Life Insurance, or SGLI, from \$250,000. The DOD would pay for the first \$150,000 in life insurance for all troops in combat zones.

One point of debate separating defense officials from Congress and military leaders is who should be eligible.

Officials from all four services testified in Congress earlier this month that they would prefer to see death benefits extended to all active-duty personnel and reserve forces, not just those in war zones.

Death benefits are a hot button issue. "Ruth Limbaugh talks a lot about how soldiers get a fraction of what a civilian would receive" in death benefits, said Rivard, 32, a married information technology employee in Nashville, Tenn., in civilian life.

The conservative talk-show host has criticized payouts to the families of firefighters and civilians killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, which averaged \$1 million, compared to the small amount paid to the survivors of soldiers, Marines, airmen and sailors killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But in an informal poll of soldiers at FOB Wilson, just slightly more than half said they believe only those in combat zones should

be eligible for the increased death payout.

The odds of getting killed increase exponentially when you step into a combat zone, said Sgt. Roy Scott Hammons, with the 3rd Squadron, 278th Regimental Combat Team, from the Tennessee National Guard.

The proposed death benefits should be made available mainly to soldiers in combat zones, said Hammons.

Only about 9 percent of newly enlisted soldiers are married, according to Army data. However, that figure increases to 42 percent by the end of the first enlistment.

Rivard encourages his soldiers with dependents to buy the maximum coverage, which costs about \$16 a month for the current \$250,000 in coverage, he said. Yet only slightly more than half of the 3-278th RCT soldiers interviewed at FOB Wilson said they're paying for the maximum SGLI coverage.

One of those with maximum coverage is Cpl. Michael Henley, 28, who is single. Just because he has no children doesn't mean he doesn't have any obligations.

"If something happens to me, I'll put my goddaughter through college," Henley said.

E-mail: Terry Boyd at: boydt@mail.estripes.odm.mil

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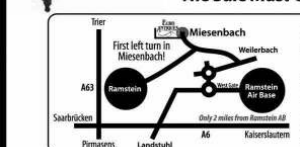
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Gunmen kill Iraqi journalist, son

Officials say vote results delayed

BY MARIAM FAM
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Amid spiraling postelection violence, gunmen killed an Iraqi journalist working for a U.S.-funded TV station and his 3-year-old son as they left their home Wednesday in the southern city of Basra, an official said. Two U.S. soldiers were reported slain in separate attacks.

In Basra, Abdul Hussein Khazal al-Basri, the correspondent of Al-Hurra TV station, and his son were both killed in the city's Maqal area, 340 miles southeast of Baghdad, said Nazim al-Moussawi, a spokesman for the local government administration.

Launched in February 2004, Al-Hurra or "The Free," was tailored for Arab audiences to compete with other regional stations like Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya. President Bush said it was created to "cut through the hateful propaganda that fills the airwaves in the Muslim world," but some clerics have denounced the TV station for broadcasting its own brand of propaganda.

Basri also was a member of the political office of the Islamic Dawa Party, an influential Shiite movement, and the editor of a newspaper in Basra, Iraq's second-largest city. He also headed the press office at Basra City Council, al-Moussawi said.

Also Wednesday, Iraqi officials delayed the announcement of final results from landmark national elections because they said the election commission must recount votes from about 300 ballot boxes.

An undetermined number of other ballots were declared invalid because of alleged tampering, officials said. The ballots were inside 40 boxes and another 250 bags that were delivered to the central counting facility in Baghdad, he said.

Final results from the Jan. 30 balloting were to be announced Thursday. But spokesman Farid Ayar said the deadline would slip due to the need for a recount.

"We don't know when this will finish," he said. "This will lead to a little postponement in announcing the results."

Ayar would not say where the 300 ballot boxes came from. Commission official Adel al-Lami said the ballots in the 40 boxes and 250 bags would not be counted because they appeared to have been stuffed inside them or, in some cases, improperly folded.

Commission officials have previously said some ballot boxes were stolen by armed groups and returned to polling stations. Al-Lami said bribes were offered to staffers if they would accept the boxes, which he said came from different parts of Iraq.

No new partial results have been released since Monday for the voting for the 275-member National Assembly, 18 provincial councils and a regional parliament for the Kurdish self-governing region in the north.

Partial results released Monday showed a coalition of Kurdish parties in second place.

The ticket of interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a secular Shiite, is in third place among the 111 candidate lists. A Shiite-dominated ticket endorsed by Iraq's most influential Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, led with about half the votes, followed by the coalition of Kurdish parties.

A military statement said one U.S. soldier died Tuesday of a gunshot wound at a logistical support area in Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad. The second soldier was shot and killed Sunday while on patrol in Mosul, the U.S. command said.

In Rome, the newspaper that employs an Italian journalist held hostage in Iraq said Wednesday it has indications she is alive and that intelligence officials have established indirect contact with the kidnappers.



Mourners ride with the coffin of Abdul Hussein al-Basri, correspondent for the U.S.-funded Al-Hurra television station, and his son, in the southern city of Basra in Iraq on Wednesday, after the two were killed by gunmen in the Maqal area of the city.

Giuliana Sgrenea, a reporter for communist daily Il Manifesto, was abducted by gunmen Friday outside Baghdad University.

Conflicting claims have appeared on Islamic militant Web sites: One said she had been killed, while another said she would be released soon.

The Western legal expert said investigative judges were close to handing over lengthy dossiers of affidavits, witness statements and other documents to a five-judge chamber that would run the trials for former members of Saddam's deposed regime.

The expert, who is familiar with the process and spoke on condition of anonymity, would not say which of Saddam's 11 lieutenants were likely to face the Iraqi Special Tribunal first, and it was unclear when the dictator himself would stand trial.

In December, investigative judges summoned Saddam's cousin, Ali Hassan al-Majid, better known as Chemical Ali, for his role in poison gas attacks against Iraq's Kurdish minority and former Defense Minister Gen. Sultan Hashim Ahmad to appear before them in closed-door preliminary hearings.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

By The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,450 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,107 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Tuesday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, 12. Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,312 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at

least 998 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Spc. Jeremy O. Allmon, 22, Cleburne, Texas; died Sunday in Taji, Iraq, when an explosive detonated near his vehicle; assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Steven G. Bayow, 42, Colonia, Yap Island, Federated States of Micronesia; died Friday in Beijing, Iraq, when an explosive hit his vehicle; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

■ Army Spc. Daniel Torres, 23, Fort Worth, Texas; died Friday in Beijing, Iraq, when an explosive hit his vehicle; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

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British soldier cleared of 1 count of abuse

BY MATT SURMAN
The Associated Press

OSNABRUECK, Germany — A judge hearing the case of three British soldiers accused of abusing detained Iraqis ordered jurors on Wednesday to acquit one of the suspects on a charge of pretending to kick a prisoner.

Lance Cpl. Mark Cooley still faces two charges of abuse, and Judge Michael Hunter refused to allow reporters to publish more details of the decision.

"Although we would wish to tell you ... for legal reasons we can't give a reason at this stage and must ask you to give a verdict of not guilty," Hunter told the jury.

Cooley, 25, is one of three members of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers standing trial on this British base in Germany on charges that they abused Iraqi civilians suspected of looting a humanitarian aid warehouse outside Basra in May 2003.

Cooley also is charged with beating a detainee on a forklift and driving it, and with simulating a punch against another detainee, seen in a photograph. He has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Another soldier, Cpl. Daniel Kenyon, 33, faces

charges of aiding and abetting abuse and failing to report it. He has denied the charges.

Lance Cpl. Darren Larkin, 30, already has pleaded guilty to one count of battery after prosecutors charged he was the man shown in a photo standing with both feet on a tied-up Iraqi lying on the ground. Another charge of forcing an Iraqi to strip for simulating sex acts was dropped last week.

Taking the stand Wednesday, Kenyon described the aggressive attitude that existed at the camp before he arrived. He said a security guard at the camp, Sgt. Maj. Richard Jackson, briefed him, telling him: "If we capture anyone, we just give them a kick."

Kenyon also told the court that the soldiers were unclear about their role in Iraq following the end of major combat.

The trial revolves around photos taken by a soldier who was arrested in England after bringing the film to be developed. The pictures provoked widespread dismay in Britain after they were published in newspapers, leading to uncomfortable comparisons with the scandal over abuse of Iraqi prisoners by U.S. soldiers at the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad.



This courtroom drawing shows British soldiers Cpl. Daniel Kenyon, left, and Lance Cpl. Mark Cooley, right, in the British Court Center in Osnabrueck, Germany. A judge on Wednesday ordered Cooley cleared of a charge of simulating kicking an Iraqi prisoner. Cooley still faces two charges of abuse.

Guardman charged

EVANSVILLE, Indiana — An Indiana National Guardsman who received a Purple Heart for wounds sustained in Iraq has been charged in the death of an Iraqi citizen, the Army said.

The Iraqi died at the same time Cpl. Dustin Berg, 21, was wounded, the military said. Berg also faces charges of false swearing and the wearing of an unauthorized award.

A hearing was scheduled Thursday at Fort Knox, Ky., to determine whether the case will proceed to a court-martial.

The Iraqi died in November 2003 near Nippur, south of Baghdad, said Gini Sinclair, a Fort

Knox public affairs officer, on Tuesday. She declined to release further details about the case.

Berg's mother was quoted in The Herald newspaper of Jasper, Ind., on Nov. 24, 2003, as saying her son, of Ferdinand, Ind., had been shot the day before and had undergone minor surgery.

Berg received a Purple Heart during a ceremony Feb. 19, 2004, at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

Berg was a member of the 1st Battalion, 152nd Infantry Regiment, based in Jasper, when it mobilized in January 2003 for the Iraq war and returned home in February 2004. He has since been put on active duty and assigned to Fort Knox.

From The Associated Press

Documentary to re-create alleged torture techniques used at Gitmo

The Associated Press

LONDON — A British TV station plans to show a documentary that re-creates some of the torture techniques allegedly used at the Guantanamo Bay prison camp by trying them out on volunteers.

"The Guantanamo Guidebook" show was made by the London-based production company 20-20, using declassified documents about the U.S. camp, Yad

Luthra, a spokesman for Channel 4 in London, said Wednesday.

The producers of the show claim to have re-created some of the milder forms of torture used at the U.S. Navy base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The methods used on the seven volunteers in the one-hour documentary included religious and sexual humiliation, forced nudity, sleep deprivation and extreme temperatures, Luthra said.

The U.S. government has denied using torture at the camp in Cuba, where many detainees are held without charge.

But some Guantanamo detainees have alleged that they were

wrongly imprisoned after repeated abuse by U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Pakistan, including beatings with chains, electric shock and sodomy.

Tom Wilner, a lawyer for 11 Kuwaiti prisoners there, recently told The Associated Press that most of his clients falsely confessed to belonging to Afghanistan's ousted Taliban regime or the al-Qaida terror network as a way to stop the abuse.

A broadcast date for "The Guantanamo Guidebook" has not been announced, but Luthra said it is one of four documentaries that Channel 4 plans to show in a one-week period in the next month dealing with the issue of torture.

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IN THE STATES



Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley, with his wife Katie, on Wednesday denounced rumors of infidelity spread by an aid of Gov. Robert Ehrlich. O'Malley also is drawing fire for statements perceived to be comparing President Bush's budget cuts to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Mayor of Baltimore equates Bush budget with Sept. 11 attacks

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Mayor Martin O'Malley likened the cuts in President Bush's budget proposal for urban areas to the Sept. 11 attacks, drawing fire from his fellow Democrats as well as Republicans.

Also, at a news conference Wednesday, O'Malley denounced rumors of infidelity spread on the Internet by a longtime aide to Gov. Robert Ehrlich, saying he was the target of an "orchestrated campaign," as his wife described the effect that the stories were having on their young children.

The mayor, who is weighing a bid for governor in 2006 and is considered a rising star within the Democratic Party, was among a group of mayors and other local officials who held a news conference Tuesday in Washington to criticize the president's proposal to cut spending for community development programs by \$2 billion.

"Back on Sept. 11, terrorists attacked our metropolitan cores, two of America's great cities. They did that because they knew that was where they could do the most damage and weaken us the most," O'Malley said. "Years later, we are given a budget proposal by our commander in chief, the president of the United States. And with a budget ax, he is attacking America's cities. He is attacking our metropolitan core."

Montgomery County, Md., Executive Douglas M. Duncan said O'Malley "went way too far."

"The president of the United States is fighting terrorism. It hurts our cause when people say things like that," said Duncan, who like O'Malley is expected to seek the Democratic nomination in the 2006 race against Ehrlich. O'Malley told The Washington

Post he didn't intend to equate the proposed budget cuts to a terrorist attack.

"The point I am trying to make is, for America to be strong, we have to strengthen our cities. Because we're in the middle of a war, we need to be strengthening and protecting our cities, not weakening our cities," he said.

1 deputy killed, 2 wounded in shooting at Florida home

The Associated Press

PAISLEY, Fla. — A sheriff's deputy was fatally shot and two others were wounded when a domestic battery suspect opened fire on them Wednesday as they responded to a home in the Ocala National Forest, officials said.

Lake County Deputy Wayne Koester died after being transferred to a hospital, sheriff's Capt. Nick Pallitto told the Orlando Sentinel and local TV stations. Deputies Tom McKane and Bill Crotty were each shot in the leg and are

undergoing treatment at an area hospital.

The suspect, Jason Lee Wheeler, 29, escaped on a motorcycle, which was later found ditched, Pallitto said. His girlfriend told deputies that Wheeler has an arsenal of weapons and that his property might be booby-trapped.

More than 100 deputies and officers from four different law enforcement agencies searched for Wheeler just minutes after the shooting was reported. Wheeler was considered armed and dangerous.

"It's an intensive manhunt and we're going to get this guy," Pallitto said.

Two nearby elementary schools were on lockdown as deputies searched for a suspect, school district spokesman Janice Karst said.

Florida Highway Patrol troopers temporarily shut down portions of state roads 42 and 44 during the search.

"We need people to stay in their houses while they search for this guy," Trooper Kim Miller said.

Bush cautious despite cease-fire pledge

By BARRY SCHWEID

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Even with a cease-fire pledge from Israeli and Palestinian leaders, President Bush is moving slowly to involve himself and U.S. prestige in the always risky, often disappointing Mideast peace process.

The fizzling of 10 announced cease-fires over the past four years is a sobering lesson for an already deliberate administration. Bush has refused to take short cuts, and he accepts the principle that the parties — not outsiders — bear ultimate responsibility for their fate.

Analysis

In one respect, however, Bush already has turned a corner in agreeing to his first meeting with a Palestinian leader. He will confer separately this spring with Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Bush shunned the late Yasser Arafat but has agreed to work with Arafat's successor. His cautious engagement and Secretary

of State Condoleezza Rice's promise to play an active role in promoting a settlement bring the administration deeper into mediating the conflict than it has been in a year and a half.

The administration plans to send a security adviser to the region, choosing Army Lt. Gen. William E. Ward, who will be in close contact with Rice. Bush also is seeking \$350 million in aid for the Palestinians.

But Bush does not appear inclined to move that fast, or that boldly, and several Middle East analysts agreed with his measured approach.

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Brothers honored for pre-WWII rescue of Jews

BY LISA CORNWELL

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — As the Nazis took power in Germany and the world turned its back on Jewish refugees, four brothers who ran a cigar factory in the Philippines worked quietly to help 1,200 Jews flee to Manila.

The Frieder brothers, who have since died, never talked about their part in the little-known rescue. But some 65

years later, the remaining refugees want to know what Philip, Alex, Morris and Herbert Frieder achieved.

"The Frieder brothers were just ordinary Jewish businessmen, but they went out of their way to save lives," said Frank Ephraim, who was eight years old when his family fled to Manila from Germany in 1939. "No one made them do it. They just did what they thought was right."

The four brothers from Cincinnati

had taken turns going to Manila for two-year periods during the 1920s and '30s to run the Helena Cigar Factory, started by their father in 1918.

While they were there, they established a Jewish Refugee Committee and worked with highly placed friends — U.S. High Commissioner of the Philippines Paul V. McNutt and Manuel L. Quezon, the first Philippine president — to help the mostly German and Austrian refugees get passports

and visas, then find employment and homes in Manila.

"We were welcomed in the Philippines at a time when the gates to Jews were closed all over the world," said refugee Lotte Herschfeld, 74, of West Hartford, Connecticut.

The rescue was little known until a recent book by Ephraim, "Escape to Manila: From Nazi Tyranny to Japanese Terror," led to efforts in the United States and the Philippines to honor the hu-

manitarian effort before the aging refugees die off.

"Our numbers are dwindling, and I didn't want this story to be lost forever," said Ephraim, 73, of Washington, D.C.

Next Sunday, Cincinnati's Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education will honor the Frieder brothers, Quezon, McNutt and the Filipino people. At least 25 refugees and the descendants and nearly 100 members of the Frieder family will join relatives of McNutt and Quezon and the Philippine Ambassador Alberto Del Rosario.

Documents show the Frieders had hoped to bring as many as 10,000 refugees to the Philippines, but World War II intervened. They continued working in Manila until the Japanese invasion in 1941.

Now the brothers' photos, letters and other possessions, along with those of the refugees, will become part of a permanent exhibit in Cincinnati. Part of the exhibit might be taken to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, and to Manila.

"We want to tell the world about the humanity of these men who did so much to save so many people and were never recognized," said Racelle Weiman, director of the Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education. "We hope it will make people realize that everyone can make a difference."

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Va. House OKs fines for wearing hip-huggers

The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Virginians who wear their pants so low their underwear shows may want to think about investing in a stronger belt.

The state's House of Delegates passed a bill Tuesday authorizing a \$50 fine for anyone who displays his or her underpants in a "lewd or indecent manner."

Del. Lionel Spruill Sr., a Democrat who opposed the bill, had played with his colleagues to remember their own youthful fashion follies.

During an extended monologue Monday, he talked about how they dressed or wore their hair in their teens. On Tuesday, he said the measure was an unconstitutional attack on young blacks that would force parents to take off work to accompany their children to court just for making a fashion statement.

"This is a foolish bill, Mr. Speaker, because it will hurt so many," Spruill said before the measure was approved 60-34. It now goes to the state Senate.

The bill's sponsor, Del. Algie T. Howell, has said constituents were offended by the exposed underwear. He did not speak on the floor Tuesday.

Spruill and Howell, also a Democrat, are both black.

MILITARY SALES



More allegations arise against Cosby

California woman says comedian drugged, groped her about 30 years ago

Knight Ridder Newspapers

PHILADELPHIA — A California lawyer says she has told Montgomery County, Pa., investigators who are probing sex allegations against Bill Cosby that the entertainer drugged her and tried to force himself on her about 30 years ago.

Tamara Green, a longtime criminal and civil lawyer and former fashion model, said she decided to tell her story after Cosby's lawyer and the Montgomery County district attorney publicly cast doubt on a former Temple University women's basketball executive's allegations that Cosby drugged and groped her at his Elkins Park, Pa., mansion last year.

"I realize that him doing it to me 30 years ago doesn't prove he did it to this girl today, but when I heard the circumstances, I felt compelled to call up and say, 'He did exactly the same thing to me,'" said Green, 57 in a phone interview from her Ventura, Calif., home.

"Do I want everybody to know that he had his dirty paws all over me? No," she said.

"But I don't think it's right that they're going to disregard this woman and her allegations. I feel like they should look into it more

seriously..."

What she said convinced her to go public was not any desire for justice for herself or for money or even for publicity. She said she believes it was her "civic duty and moral obligation" to come forward



Cosby

after Cosby's lawyer denounced the Temple woman's claims as "bizarre and preposterous" and Montgomery County District Attorney Bruce L. Castor Jr. characterized the case against Cosby as weak.

"I heard his lawyer said her claims were preposterous and basically I thought, 'My eye. He did exactly the same thing to me,'" said Green. "It set my teeth on edge and made my hair stand up."

"Then I heard a press release from the district attorney saying he thought the case was weak and why did she wait so long to come forward?" she said. "I worked in a D.A.'s office and that's D.A.-speak for 'We're not filing charges. I feel compelled to come forward after I

heard that."

Cosby's lawyer, Walter Phillips Jr., denied Green's allegations. He would not answer questions about her story. "I've spoken with my client," Phillips said. "Mr. Cosby

does not recognize the names Tamara Green or Tamara Loder (her maiden name)... [T]he incident you described did not happen in any way, shape or form."

Cosby also has denied the

former Temple executive's allegations.

She claims Cosby gave her some pills, then groped her while she was immobilized at his mansion in January 2004.

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Siblings say they killed mother, grandparents

BY JEANINE IBRAHIM

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Investigators found human remains in a basement under fresh concrete after a brother and sister told them they had killed their mother and grandparents, authorities said Wednesday.

Investigators worked into early Wednesday digging up concrete in the grandparents' small home on the city's east side, and a forensic anthropologist was brought in to help gather evidence.

Kenneth Allen Jr., 29, and his sister, Kari Allen, 18, had been pulled over for speeding Tuesday in Missouri. In the car, officers discovered bloody clothes and bedding, as well as jewelry, cash, credit cards and the driver's licenses of two older people in Indiana, St. Charles County, Mo., Sheriff's Lt. Craig McGuire said.

Indianapolis police identified the grandparents as Leander Bradley, 92, and Betty Bradley, and the mother as Sharon Allen.

Kari Allen told authorities she and her brother had killed them, dismembered them and buried them in the basement floor in the grandparents' home, McGuire said. Kenneth Allen also later admitted involvement, he said.

They were charged with receiving stolen property, and murder charges were planned, authorities said.

Police Lt. Paul Ciesielski said authorities believe the three were killed early last month. The sister told authorities the mother and grandmother were killed at the mother's apartment in Noblesville, an Indianapolis suburb, then the bodies were brought to the grandparents' house, where the grandfather was killed, Ciesielski said.

Stars gather on Dean's birthday

BY DAISY NGUYEN

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Was the "Rebel Without A Cause" driven to early

death because of his rebellious nature? It depends on whom you ask.

Friends and former co-stars of James Dean disagree on whether he had a death wish, but all agree the screen idol influenced them and the movie-

ing public.

Dean, who died 50 years ago in a car accident, would have been 74 on Tuesday, and a celebration of sorts was held to kick off a year-long celebration leading to his 75th birthday.

"We had talked about growing older," said actor Martin Landau.

"He used to worry that he looked like a kid when he became an actor."

But photographer Phil Stern, who captured a famous shot of Dean with a turtle-neck covering half his face, thinks Dean had no intention of growing old.

"Dean was very prescient because he structured his career in such a way that he passed away — which I believe was inevitable — in a way that precluded the possibility of people seeing him as a potted, bald man," Stern said.

Martin Sheen, who stars in NBC's "The West Wing," was only a boy when he saw Dean in "East of Eden." Dean's performance inspired Sheen to become an actor.

"All of his movies had a profound effect on my life, in my work and all of my generation," Sheen said. "He transcended cinema acting. It was no longer acting, it was human behavior."

Jane Withers said working with the sometimes aloof Dean in "Giant" was the highlight of her career, but she had to get past his attitude early on.

"He acted like a little kid and when someone acts like a kid, I treat them like one," Withers said. "I didn't put up with any guff, and because of it, we had a very warm relationship."

Earl Holliman, who was also in "Giant," sees Dean's aloofness as a product of his desire to remain focused on work.

"Jimmy was a guy who didn't care what people think of him," Holliman said. "He said that wasn't important. What was important was what was on the screen."

Despite his brief Hollywood career, Dean's image as rebel anti-hero still resonates with marketers.

Warner Bros. plans to release "Giant," "Rebel" and "East of Eden" on DVD this year. And Dean's image will adorn two NASCAR racing cars this summer.

Stage plays based on Dean's films will also be staged in several cities, and the actor's hometown, Marion, Ind., plans to amp up its annual festival commemorating the star, which typically draws up to 60,000 people.

"I invite you to our area," Marion Mayor Wayne Seybold said, "where cool was born."

Dean, an avid racer, died Sept. 30, 1955, when another car turned into the path of his Porsche Spyder on a California highway.

Officials estimated he was driving between 70 mph and 75 mph.



Dean



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Teen girl scalped

BOISE, Idaho — A member of a punk clique surrendered Wednesday for scalping another member, apparently as punishment for her disrespectful behavior toward women, police said. The victim, a 16-year-old girl whose hair was cut in a mohawk, survived.

Marianne Dahle, 26, surrendered on a felony arrest warrant for aggravated battery.

Dahle is accused of tying up the teenager and cutting away a 6-by-8-inch section of her scalp.

The victim — who identified herself to reporters only as Sheila — said she underwent skin grafts and anticipated another surgery to repair the damage. Authorities did not release the girl's name.

Train strikes, kills 2

BOSTON — A commuter train struck and killed two Boston University students in the city's Allston section early Wednesday morning.

The two were dead at the scene after they were hit by an inbound train from Worcester around 1 a.m., said Lydia Rivera, a spokeswoman for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

MBTA police investigators were unsure why the two were on the tracks, Rivera said.

Eric Rudolph case

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A whistleblower who once sparked a major review of the FBI crime lab is helping serial bomber suspect Eric Rudolph fight death penalty charges by challenging the work of another federal agency, according to court documents filed Tuesday.

Once the FBI's top expert on forensic residue, Fredrick W. Whithurst has supplied the Rudolph defense with a sworn statement questioning the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms' model of the nail-laden bomb that exploded outside a Birmingham abortion clinic in 1998.

Jury selection is set to begin late next month in Rudolph's trial on charges of planting the bomb that went off outside the Birmingham clinic, killing an off-duty police officer and critically injuring a nurse.

Speaker dispute

BOULDER, Colorado — An embattled university professor who likened some of the Sept. 11 victims to the Nazi organizers of the Holocaust got a standing ovation when he took to the campus audience of more than 1,000 people that "I'm not backing up an inch."

Walter Churchill went ahead with the speech after the University of Colorado backed off an attempt to cancel the address citing security reasons. Churchill had filed a lawsuit against the cancellation.

Churchill's comments, which appeared in an essay he wrote soon after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, prompted a firestorm of criticism when they became widely known last month, prompting him to resign as chairman of Colorado University's ethnic studies department.

From The Associated Press

Medicare drug benefit costs to rise

BY MARK SHERMAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Medicare's new prescription drug program will cost taxpayers \$720 billion over its first 10 years, with costs reaching \$100 billion a year by the middle of the next decade, according to a new estimate by the Bush administration.

The new number is far higher than any previous estimate produced by the administration or Congress, but it reflects what lawmakers and health care analysts have known all along: As baby boomers turn 65 and swell Medicare's rolls, the government's tab for their health care is expected to rise substantially.

The new projection issued Tuesday runs from 2006 to 2015 and is not directly comparable to the

Prescription drug program will cost \$720 billion over 10 years

\$400 billion estimate lawmakers had when they narrowly approved Medicare legislation in 2003 or to the revised estimate of \$534 billion that the White House issued just two months later, after the law was enacted.

Those figures covered the 10 years from 2004 to 2013 — two years to devise the drug benefit and put it in place and eight years in which the government would pay some drug costs for Medicare beneficiaries.

The drug benefit begins in January and the \$720 billion includes the years 2014 and 2015, Medicare spokesman Gary Karr said.

"Of course the costs go up when

you add in more years at the end and more people are on Medicare," Karr said.

Drug costs, which have been rising far faster than inflation, also are expected to be higher in those years.

Based on the numbers released Tuesday, the program's costs are estimated at roughly \$100 billion annually in 2014 and 2015, or more than a third of what the Medicare bill originally was projected to cost for the entire first 10 years, ending in 2013.

Under the new program, participants will pay monthly premiums that are expected to average \$35 in 2006 and the first \$250 in \$35

costs. Medicare will pick up 75 percent of the net \$2,000 in prescription expenses. After that, a gap is built into coverage during which participants are responsible for the entire drug bill until costs top \$5,100, after which the government pays 95 percent.

Controversy over cost has plagued the program since before its passage. The administration's Medicare chief pressured a subordinate to withhold his higher estimate of the cost of the legislation from Congress, a report by the Health and Human Services Department inspector general concluded.

The bill narrowly passed the House, 220-215, after an extraordinary three-hour, middle-of-the-night vote in which GOP leaders and administration officials cajoled reluctant Republicans to support President Bush's key domestic priority.

FLIGHT 93 NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Architects: Skidmore, Merrill & Associates

This artist rendering provided by the National Park Service on Friday shows "The Crescent of Embrace" by Peter Murdoch Architects of Los Angeles. One of five designs for the Flight 93 National Memorial. More than 1,000 designs were submitted for a memorial for the flight which crashed in a western Pennsylvania, killing 40 passengers and crew on Sept. 11, 2001.

Flight 93 memorial process begins

BY PATRICIA LOWRY
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The journey from Pittsburgh to the United Flight 93 crash site in Somerset County is a process of elimination. We pass from urban to suburban to rural farm to remote field.

Travel on, up over the ridge and into a wide, open, bowl-like field partially fringed by a small forest of trees. There, on the right, is a parking lot and just beyond it, the temporary memorial, 40 feet of chain-link fence to which visitors have attached flags, FDNY and local rescue workers' baseball caps, license plates, bouquets of plastic flowers and photographs of victims.

"People come," said Donna Zwick, who lives on a nearby farm and is one of 40 "ambassadors" who staff the temporary memorial near Shanksville, Pa. Even in the biting winds of winter, "they just keep coming."

In three years, more than 500,000 people have visited the Flight 93 crash site and left 20,000 objects, most of them now in archival storage. They will become part of the permanent memorial, set to be broken ground later this year. Five finalists in the design competition were recently selected.

The plane's impact area was small and compact, but the memorial will be large, 2,000 acres owned and operated by the National Park Service, complete with park rangers and parking for 200 vehicles. There will be a visitor information center, archival storage and maintenance buildings, roads, trails, utilities.

The plane came down on private land, in a field being reclaimed after deep and surface mining. The creation of a national park promises permanent access as well as the funds to produce and maintain a

quality memorial and continue the land reclamation, perhaps as a distinctive artwork.

Absent the temporary memorial, there is no evidence that anything significant happened there. Because the crash site is also a gravesite, the crater made from the impact has been filled in, so the record of what happened has to be put back. But who should interpret it, and how? How could future generations consider the events of 9/11 and the people caught up in them? Good guidance came from "the partners," a coalition of groups representing Flight 93 family members, local residents, design professionals and the National Park Service. In their search for "that one brilliant answer," the partners have proceeded in a commendable way, beginning with a detailed mission statement that emphasizes commemoration, education and respect for the rural landscape.

The memorial must honor the dead, who are believed to have thwarted a planned attack on Washington, D.C. It should invite the public to express their feelings about the event, and it should preserve "the solemn and tranquil setting" of the crash site.

The memorial also must revere the site as hallowed burial ground, commemorate the events of 9/11, celebrate the lives of the passengers and crew, express the nation's appreciation, educate visitors about the context of the events of 9/11 and offer a place of comfort, hope and inspiration.

Anyone could enter this open competition, and 1,011 individuals or teams did — about a fifth of the 5,201 entries the World Trade Center memorial competition. While many were not professional designers, the pros had the edge, not only with their polished presentation boards but in their ability to speak and interpret the language of design. Most of the finalists are experienced design professionals; one is an architecture student.

Judge rules an embryo is a person

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — All Alison Miller and Todd Parrish wanted was to become parents. But when a fertility clinic didn't preserve a healthy embryo they created, would one day become their child, they sued for wrongful death.

A judge refused to dismiss their case, ruling in effect that a test-tube embryo is a human being and that the suit can go forward.

Though most legal experts believe the ruling will be overturned, some in the fertility business worry it could have a chilling effect, threatening everything from in vitro fertilization to abortion rights and embryonic stem cell research.

"If the decision stands, it could essentially end in vitro fertilization," said Dr. Robert Schenken, president of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine. Few doctors would risk offering the procedure if any accident that harmed the embryo could result in a wrongful death lawsuit, said Schenken, chairman of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Texas in San Antonio.

He said the society, a professional group for fertility doctors, is considering filing a court brief opposing Friday's ruling by Cook County Judge Jeffrey M. Sankoff.

The lawyer for the clinic, James Kopiva, declined to say if an appeal is planned, but added, "We disagree with the court's decision and do not believe Illinois law provides for the remedy provided by the Sankoff decision."

If the ruling for the couple holds, it would have no legal standing outside Illinois. However, it could provide impetus for groups elsewhere to push an agenda opposing both abortion rights and stem cell research, said Northwestern University law professor John Rostker, an abortion foe who has worked with anti-abortion activists.

IN THE WORLD

Policemen investigate the scene where a powerful car bomb exploded in Madrid on Wednesday. The blast followed a telephone warning from a caller claiming to represent the armed Basque separatist group ETA. The attack injured at least 43 people, officials said.



Car bomb injures 43 in Madrid; ETA blamed

By Ed McCullough

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — A car bomb exploded Wednesday in a business park on the outskirts of Madrid just after the morning rush hour, injuring 43 people. Government officials blamed the Basque separatist group ETA.

The blast blew out windows at the back of a modern, six-story, brick-and-glass office building located about 10 yards from the car, which was destroyed.

Most of the injured were people inside who suffered cuts from flying glass shards.

"What saved me... was my computer," which faced the first-story

window, said Manuel Amerentes, communications director for Bull, the French computer maker which has its offices in the building.

"I think it's destroyed," said Amerentes, who was knocked to the floor by the blast.

Bull's director-general for Spain, Julio del Valle, has an office overlooking the street where the car was parked. His window was blown out by the blast. "I was really lucky," he said, with a bandaged right hand and flecks of blood on his suit.

Authorities noted a caller claiming to represent ETA gave the general location of the attack less than an hour before it happened.

Speaking from Poland, where he's on an official visit, Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero said, "I want to tell ETA terrorists, and those who support them, that there is no room for them in political life nor in society. Bombs lead only to prison."

In Madrid, Interior Minister Jose Antonio Alonso noted 14 ETA suspects were arrested Tuesday and the car bomb went off Wednesday.

"Those are the facts," The Basque regional parliament wants Spain to accept "shared sovereignty" over the three-province region, across the Pyrenees mountains from southwest France. Last week the national Parliament voted a resounding "no."

Israel to lift travel restrictions

By Mohammed Daraghmeih

The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Israel will lift travel restrictions on Palestinians in parts of the West Bank and abandon several major checkpoints as part of its withdrawal from five towns in the coming weeks, Palestinian leader Mahoud Abbas said Wednesday.

Free travel would be the most tangible improvement yet in the lives of ordinary Palestinians, sending a strong message that a cease-fire with Israel is beginning to pay off. Abbas made the announcement a day after meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon at a Mideast summit in Egypt.

A senior Israeli military official confirmed that several roadblocks would be removed as part of the handover of security responsibility for the five towns to the Palestinians. The handover of Jericho,

Tulkarem, Qalqilya, Bethlehem and Ramallah will occur during the next three weeks, according to a timetable agreed to by Abbas and Sharon on Tuesday.

A second meeting between the two, set for Sharon's Sycamore Ranch in southern Israel, could take place "in the coming days or a week," said Raanan Gissin, an adviser to Sharon.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia met with the West Bank security commanders and instructed them to be prepared to take responsibility for the five areas, participants said.

Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said Israel and the Palestinians would form four committees that would begin meeting next week to coordinate the moves.

Before the violence erupted four years ago, tens of thousands of Palestinians worked in Israel.

Additionally, 500 merchants

will be allowed to enter Israel for business, and relatives will be allowed to visit Gaza residents incarcerated in Israeli prisons. Four hundred Palestinian employees of international organizations will be allowed to move freely between Gaza and the West Bank.

A roadblock cutting off Gaza's main north-south road will be opened 24 hours to public transport and Palestinian security vehicles, though not to private cars.

Meanwhile, U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, visiting the USS O'Bannon anchored off the coast of France on Wednesday, said more moderate Islamic nations are needed to counter the threat of extremism.

Rumsfeld, in Nice, France for a meeting of NATO defense ministers, held up the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan as such moderates willing to help in the U.S.-led war on terrorism. He said he hoped Iraq would also emerge as such a nation.

Rice to Iran: Answers expected to nuclear program inquiries

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Wednesday that Iran cannot delay indefinitely accountability for a suspected nuclear weapons program, but said the United States has set "no deadline, no timeline" for Tehran to act. Rice, making her first visit to Europe as Washington's envoy, said the United States remains in "closer consultations" with its European allies on the issue.

But she warned Tehran that the United States would not accept foot-dragging by the government there as officials weigh various diplomatic overtures by European nations to resolve the nuclear question.

"I'm quite clear, and I believe everybody is telling the Iranians that they are going to have to live up to their international obligations," she said at a news

conference with NATO officials. "It is obvious that if Iran cannot be brought to live up to its international obligations, in fact, the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) statutes indicate that Iran would have to be referred to the U.N. Security Council."

"I think the message is there — the Iranians need to get that message," she said, adding that Tehran should know that "there are other steps" the international community can take.

In the Fox interview, Rice said: "We have believed all along that Iran ought to be referred to the Security Council and taken a variety of steps are available to the international community."

Rice told reporters Iran already is on notice that it must not use a civilian nuclear power program to hide a weapons project.

Iran has denied making nuclear weapons, and says its nuclear activities are geared solely toward generating electricity.



Pope John Paul II waves to faithful from a window of Rome's Agostino Gemelli hospital as he appears for the Sunday Angelus prayer. The 84-year-old pope, who was rushed to the hospital last week, is now doing better and celebrated Ash Wednesday.

Pope makes Ash Wednesday observance in hospital room

The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — His forehead smeared with the traditional mark of mortality, Pope John Paul II celebrated Ash Wednesday in his hospital room, missing public prayers opening the Lenten season of fasting and reflection for the first time in 26 years.

The frail 84-year-old pope, surrounded by his personal physician and other doctors treating him for the flu and breathing trouble, held Mass in his tightly guarded suite at Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic. Ash Wednesday is a day with special resonance for believers getting the biblical reminder: "You have come from dust and to dust you shall return."

John Paul received ashes he had blessed earlier during Wednesday's ceremony at the hospital, where he was rushed on Feb. 1 with throat spasms. The pope invited his personal doctor, Renato Buzzonetti, and others to join him, papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said.

Cardinal Camillo Ruini, the pope's vicar for Rome, said the pope looked "really well" more than a week after his urgent hospitalization.

Doctors urged John Paul to prolong his hospital stay to be on the safe side, and the Vatican has not set a date for his discharge. The pope was not expected to leave the hospital before Thursday, when the Holy See issues its next update on his health and recovery.

In services at St. Peter's Basilica originally scheduled as a papal event, American Cardinal James Stafford presided in the name of John Paul. It was the first time since he became pope in 1978 that he missed public Ash Wednesday prayers, which kick off a 40-day period of fasting and prayer for Roman Catholics culminating with Easter.

In addition to serving as a reminder of mortality, the ashes also symbolize penitence and humility.



AP Photos

The Year of the Rooster began Wednesday, kicking off a weeklong Spring Festival holiday, the most important in the Chinese calendar. To celebrate, Chinese burned incense sticks for good luck at Beijing's White Cloud Temple on Wednesday.

Chinese celebrate Year of the Rooster

The Associated Press

BEIJING — A holiday calm fell over bustling cities as Chinese communities across Asia welcomed the Year of the Rooster with prayers Wednesday for tsunami victims and a safer 2005.

Businesses and government offices from Beijing to Singapore closed as hundreds of millions of ethnic Chinese visited temples and held family reunions to mark the passing of the Year of the Monkey.



A woman prays for good luck before throwing incense sticks into a fire at White Cloud Temple on Wednesday.

In Indonesia's tsunami-ravaged Aceh province, worshippers at the Vihara Dharma Bhakti temple in the provincial capital of Banda Aceh burned incense as they bowed in prayer for the tens of thousands killed there by the Dec. 26 disaster.

"We feel a great emptiness inside, but we're here to give

thanks for our protection and to pray for the forgiveness of sins and peacefulness of those who died," said Lai Nier Sin, a hairdresser whose older brother's family was washed away.

In Beijing, a city of 14 million people, streets were nearly deserted as tens of thousands of people thronged temples in a freezing wind to pray for good fortune amid clouds of perfumed incense smoke.

Security was heavy in an effort to prevent a repeat of a disaster last February in which 37 people were killed in a stampede at a festival in the Chinese capital marking the end of the holiday.

Elsewhere in China, millions of people who streamed out of cities to visit their hometowns for the most important holiday of the year were exchanging gifts and settling down to family feasts.

Blair 'sorry' for wrongful convictions in IRA attacks

BY ED JOHNSON

The Associated Press

LONDON — Prime Minister Tony Blair on Wednesday issued a public apology to 11 people whose wrongful imprisonment for IRA bombings three decades ago was dramatized in the film "In the Name of the Father."

The people were jailed in connection with Irish Republican Army bombings in the English towns of Guildford and Woolwich in 1974, which killed a total of seven people and injured more than 100.

All 11 were subsequently acquitted and the case is regarded as one of Britain's biggest miscarriages of justice.

"I am very sorry that they were subject to such an ordeal and injustice," said Blair in a televised statement.

"The Guildford and Woolwich bombings killed seven people and injured more than 100. Their loss, the loss suffered by their families, will never go away. But it serves no one for the wrong people to be convicted for such an awful crime."

One of them, Anne Maguire, welcomed the apology, delivered to television cameras in Blair's House of Commons office.

"This is very important to my family and their children and our great-grandchildren," Maguire said after meeting Blair with other family members.

"We would like it to be the police and that apologizing. It is lovely for Mr. Blair to do it."

In the critically acclaimed 1993 film, "In the Name of the Father," actor Daniel Day-Lewis portrayed one of the accused, Gerry Conlon, who served 15 years in jail. Pete Postlethwaite played Conlon's father Giuseppe, who died in prison in 1980.

"It is a matter of great regret when anyone suffers a miscarriage of justice," said Blair, who met with some of the acquitted on Wednesday.

"And, as with the others, I recognize the trauma that the conviction caused the Conlon and Maguire families and the stigma which wrongly attaches to them to this day. I am very sorry that they were subject to such an ordeal and such an injustice. That's why I am making this apology today. They deserve to be completely and publicly exonerated."

Mobster feuds in Naples expand

BY DANIEL WILLIAMS

The Washington Post

NAPLES, Italy — If you're a gangster in Naples these days, even mom's not safe.

In January, Carmela Attrice answered a call on her condominium intercom from someone she recognized, went down to the front door and was met by three men. They pumped a dozen bullets into her. The reason, police say: Attrice's son, Francesco, belonged to an organized crime faction locked in a battle for control of drug trafficking.

Over the past five months, a series of brazen killings here has pro-

vided a new meaning for the adage in praise of this seaside city: "See Naples and die." About 135 people have been gunned down in the city's organized crime feud, about 40 of them in the neighborhood of Scampia, epicenter of the violence and the place where Carmela Attrice lived and died. Mob-related killings in January numbered 16 citywide; there have been four so far in February.

The variety of crime scenes and gruesome homicides has been stunning — a customer at a pizza shop shot dead and left face down in a still-warm pie; a restaurant owner killed at his cash register in plain view of customers; a woman shot

point-blank and her body stuffed in the trunk of a car that was then set on fire; shootings in a laundry, a tobacco shop and grocery stores.

The camorra, the Neapolitan version of the Mafia, has existed for three centuries.

Like their better-known cousin, the Sicilian Mafia, the camorra operates abroad, safeguarding drug routes in both Eastern and Western Europe. The Naples bloodshed is being carried out between warring members of a single camorra clan, the di Lauros, with loyalists based in Naples fighting a renegade faction based in Spain, a major transfer point for drugs into Italy.

Special correspondent Stacy Meichtry contributed to this report.

100,000 UK fans pre-order new Potter book

LONDON — More than 100,000 fans have pre-ordered the new Harry Potter book that goes on sale in five months' time, the British division of online book retailer Amazon said Monday.

The sixth title in the hugely successful series by J.K. Rowling, "Harry Potter and The Half-Blood Prince," went to the top of Amazon.co.uk's sales chart on the first day of its announcement on Dec. 22, 2004.

The children's version of the book, rumored to have a different cover design from the adult copy, has remained in the No. 1 spot ever since. Amazon.co.uk says it is planning to send out all pre-ordered copies of the book to arrive on July 16, the day of public release.

Danish PM wants EU constitution referendum

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Denmark's newly re-elected government will return to the campaign trail later this year to encourage voters to adopt the European Constitution in a referendum, Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen said Wednesday.

Danes gave Fogh Rasmussen's government a second four-year term Tuesday, embracing his pledge to keep immigration in check, and taxes, among Europe's highest, from rising.

With 99.7 percent of the votes tallied, the governing bloc — a coalition of Liberals, Conservatives and the anti-immigration Danish People's Party — received 54 percent of the vote and 95 seats in the 179-seat Folketing, or parliament.

Analysts hope to persuade Danes to approve the EU constitution in a referendum later this year or next. The historic charter must be approved by all 25 EU members.

From the Associated Press

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Native languages lost as memories fade

United Nations says half of the world's estimated 6,000 languages in danger

BY TERRY LEONARD

The Associated Press

MAPUTO, Mozambique — Along a boulevard lined with flowering acacia trees, young people in designer clothes and high-heeled shoes chatter on the sidewalk, struggling to be heard over the driving Latin rhythms spilling from a nightclub.

Maputo's vibrant nightlife lets people forget it is the capital of one of the world's poorest countries. Here you can eat Italian, dance like a Brazilian and flirt in Portuguese.

One thing that's in ever shorter supply and perhaps even less demand: Mozambique's own indigenous languages — the storehouse for the accumulated knowledge of generations.

"Sons no longer speak the language of their fathers... Our culture is dying," laments Paulo Chi-

hale, director of a project that seeks to train Mozambican youths in traditional crafts. While Mozambique has 23 native languages, the only official one is Portuguese — a hand-me-down tongue from colonial times that at once unifies a linguistically diverse country and undermines the African traditions that help make it unique.

The United Nations estimates half of the world's estimated 6,000 languages will disappear in less than a century. Roughly a third of those are spoken in Africa and about 200 already have less than 500 speakers.

A recent U.N. Conference on Trade and Development report on protecting traditional knowledge argues that beyond a devastating impact on culture, the death of a language wipes out centuries of know-how in preserving ecosystems — leading to grave

consequences for biodiversity.

Villagers in Indonesia's Kayan Mentarang national park, for example, have for centuries practiced a system of forest management called "Tanah Ulen" or "Forbidden Land." On a rotating basis, elders declare parcels of the forest protected, prohibiting hunting and gathering.

In Maputo, Chihale looks up from his cluttered desk at MozArte, a U.N.- and government-funded project that seeks to teach youths to earn a living through traditional crafts.

"Our culture has a rich oral tradition, oral history, stories told from one generation to another. But it is an oral literature our kids will never hear," said Chihale, who speaks the native Mozambican language of Chopi.

The U.N. report said that after a 16-year civil war in Mozambique that ended in 1994, tradi-



Men perform a traditional dance at a cultural exhibition last year in the Marracuene district, Mozambique. While Mozambique has 23 native languages, the official one is Portuguese, left over from colonial times.

tional leaders managed 500,000 informal land transactions to help settle 5 million refugees in two years. They did it without any help from donor countries or the central government by applying their traditional or tribal laws to resolve potential conflicts.

Already, 96 percent of the languages spoken on Earth are spoken by just 4 percent of the popula-

tion. Experts estimate half the people in the world now use in their daily life one of the eight most widespread languages: Chinese, English, Hindi, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Portuguese and French.

Experts say 234 African languages have already disappeared and that 32 percent of the endangered languages on Earth are African.

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Traditional ways of healing bound for the pharmacy

BY DULUE MBACHU

The Associated Press

LAGOS, Nigeria — In a large room taken up by piles of leaves, barks and vines, herbalist Oluchi Mamah sits behind a physician's table, receiving people with ailments from infertility to cancer.

All who follow the dirt track to her residence outside Lagos leave with prescriptions of plants to boil and drink, bathe with, or rub in.

"There is no illness for which there is no cure in the bush," said Mamah, a 45-year-old mother of five.

More than 60 percent of the population in Africa, Latin America and Asia rely heavily on traditional plant medicines. But new converts increasingly include industrialized countries, where the Western medical industry more and more is making room — not just in herbal products, but in commercial drug development — for traditional medicine.

The result, says the World Health Organization, is a \$60 billion annual global market of herbal medicine. At least 25 percent of all modern medicines are made from plants originally used in traditional medicine, according to WHO.

Among a string of hopeful new drug candidates being derived from plants used for centuries by traditional healers all around the world is Niprisan — used in the treatment of the inherited blood disorder sickle-cell anemia.

Developed by Nigeria's National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development and patented in the United States in 1998, Niprisan is due to hit the Nigerian market and is in the final stages of trials at Children's Hospital in Philadelphia and the Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in New Brunswick, N.J.

Eight percent of African-Americans have sickle-cell anemia, a blood abnormality that itself evolved into a protection against the malaria that is Africa's No. 1 killer. Nigeria is believed to have the world's highest number of sickle-cell sufferers, with 6 million of its 120 million-plus people affected.

Other drug candidates derived from traditional plant medicines show promise in fighting ailments ranging from sickle cell to diabetes, AIDS and leishmaniasis — an ancient disease spread by sand flies



Tola Odewole looks through leaves believed to have high medicinal values in Lagos, Nigeria. More than 60 percent of the population in Africa, Latin America and Asia rely heavily on traditional plant medicines, but new converts increasingly include industrialized countries.

— and even the deadly hemorrhagic fever Ebola, say researchers.

One of the best examples of the transition from traditional medicine to the commercial drug market is Artemisinin, used for more than 2,000 years in Chinese herbal medicine and now emerging as the drug of choice for treating drug-resistant malaria, said Xiaorui Zhang, coordinator of WHO's traditional medicine department.

"We expect more drugs to make the same transition" from traditional to modern medicine, Zhang said.

Murder charge

GA DAHLONEGA — A man who reported his wife missing more than 11 years ago has been charged with her murder after authorities following a tip found bones and clothes they believe belonged to the woman.

David Lamar Dowdy, 61, was charged just hours after investigators found the remains they think belonged to his wife, Villa Inez Dowdy, on federal land in northern Georgia.

A Georgia Bureau of Investigation analysis will determine if the remains belong to the woman, who was reported missing in September 1993 at the age of 42.

Robbery suspect nabbed

NJ ATLANTIC CITY — A suspect in a string of deadly jewelry store robberies was captured by police at a \$39-a-night motel just one block from police headquarters after officers surrounded his hideout and persuaded him to give up.

Christopher DiMeo, 23, surrendered peacefully after officers surrounded the Ascot Motel, where he and his girlfriend had checked in the day before.

He was jailed on a parole violation from New York state, but is suspected in four robberies and three killings, including the deaths of a couple in Fairfield, Conn. authorities said.

Authorities believe DiMeo chatted up store employees for as long as 45 minutes before the robbery, saying he was looking for an engagement ring, then pulled out a gun and took merchandise worth hundreds of thousands of dollars altogether. Police had described him as talkative and engaging.

School seeks students

KS LAWRENCE — The Lawrence Virtual School wants to expand. It hopes to add to the 144 online students it taught in its first year by hosting 40 open house programs around Kansas.

Students work mostly from home, staying in touch with teachers by computer. Parents must have regular parent-teacher conferences by phone, in person or e-mail.

Police: Baby abused

TX HOUSTON — A young couple are accused of critically injuring their 6-month-old baby, who police say was sexually assaulted, suffered broken bones from head to toe, and had her tongue nearly severed.

Donna Marie Norman, 19, and her common-law husband, Ivan Castaneda, 21, were jailed without bail on charges of causing injury to a child.

The infant was in critical condition at a hospital. She was transferred there after her parents brought her to another hospital, saying she was suffering from congestion.

Norman told doctors the infant's tongue was severed when she tried to remove a quarter from the baby's mouth that had been placed there by her 15-month-old sister, prosecutor Karl Allen said. "Obviously, that is a bit far-fetched," Allen told a judge at a hearing.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Boys escape icy lake

VT BURLINGTON — Two boys fell through the ice on Lake Champlain while skating near the Burlington shoreline, although they were able to pull themselves out of the 34-degree water and reach shore, according to an eyewitness.

Greg Noonan was watching the two boys skate on broad lake ice below his home. The boys skated over some rough ice, Noonan said, then some thin ice. Then they were gone.

Noonan grabbed his phone, called 911 and rushed out of his house to get down to the shore on a route that took him out of view of the lake for an instant. When Noonan saw the boys again, they were back on the ice. Noonan and two neighbors helped the boys to the shore and up to a house.

Egg McMuffin rage

MI HOLLAND — A man was fined \$600 and put on probation for throwing an Egg McMuffin at a McDonald's restaurant manager after he said he didn't get what he ordered.

Scott Rodgers, 46, was convicted of misdemeanor assault and battery. Besides probation, he was sentenced to three days in a work program and a fine and is

banned from the McDonald's.

Authorities said Rodgers and his 6-year-old son stopped to get four Egg McMuffins with ham on Oct. 9 but returned to the service window to complain that at least one had sausage.

A sticky situation

LA SHREVEPORT — Add this to the many uses of duct tape.

Ark-La-Tex Narcotics Task Force agents and Caddo Parish sheriff's deputies stopped a man at a Greyhound terminal after they said he was acting suspiciously, sheriff's spokeswoman Cindy Chadwick said.

While being patted down for weapons, Charlie Ross told officers it was a back brace they felt around his chest — not nearly \$5,000 in cash stuck to him with duct tape.

Ross, 50, was not able to produce a transaction receipt required under federal law for any one carrying more than \$10,000 in cash, Chadwick said. He also would not say where he got the money, so he was booked with money laundering, she said.

Authorities learned later that Ross was a fugitive from Ouchitah Parish.

Statement cut short

CA SANTA ANA — A retrial in an alleged gang rape got off to a rocky start with the judge cutting off a defense attorney's opening statement after he described the alleged victim as a liar, a drug dealer and a "sex-crazed teenager."

"That's it, we're done for the day," Superior Court Judge Francisco Briseno said, dismissing the jury. He accused lead defense attorney Joseph G. Cavallo of "stepping over the line."

Earlier, prosecutors said Gregory Haidl, 19, son of a former Orange County assistant sheriff, and two 20-year-old friends "crossed the line between outrageous behavior and criminal conduct," by taking part in the gang rape of a 16-year-old girl and videotaping the assault.

School locked down

HI HONOLULU — A Leeward Oahu high school was locked down for about an hour because of a fight on campus.

Six students were arrested following the brawl just before lunchtime at Nanakuli High School, the Department of Education said.

Police said they used pepper spray to break up the fight involving about 50 students.

The school was locked down between 12:15 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.

It was the fourth Oahu public school fight in the past week, but it was not clear if the incidents were related, officials said.

Back to work

NV CARSON CITY — The 73rd Nevada Legislature opened with taxes, marijuana, health care and schools among its top issues.

Nevada's 42 Assembly members and 201 senators have 120 days to do the state's business. That is, unless they are called to time and Gov. Kenny Guinn summons a special session as in 2003.



Object of my reflection Jefferson Elementary School fifth-grader Mariah Bokman leaps over a puddle on her way to her safety patrol post in Fairbairn, Minn.



Cooling off A horse cools down by rolling in the snow in a pasture east of Eagle, Colo.



Pampered pet Gail Radke of Olathe, Kan., prepares Seattle, a Great Pyrenees, for the show ring at the 70th annual St. Joseph Kennel Club dog show in St. Joseph, Mo. Radke said Seattle loves the grooming and often sleeps through it.



Coin defect

Rob Weiss, owner of Old Pueblo Coin Exchange Inc. in Tucson, Ariz., holds one of several Wisconsin quarters he found with unusual markings resembling extra corn leaves on the back. The U.S. Mint is trying to determine how the differences came about.



Hanging around

Denayah Wilson, 6, of Salina, Kan., plays at the Oakdale School playground in Salina. Denayah's father, Isaac Wilson, had taken a group of children out for an evening of play in the unseasonably warm weather.



Stuck in the muck

Doug Miller, left, and Aubrey Clark, both from Leaksville, Miss., free their covered wagon from the mud in Hattiesburg, Miss. The two are part of the Leaf River Trail Riders, a group of 10 wagons that stopped over in Hattiesburg while traveling to Jackson, Miss.



Do not try this at home

Using his tractor and a chain saw, Ron Schultz of Lanark, Ill., reaches up to trim branches from a tree.

A mansion needs these

AR LITTLE ROCK — Plans for a new governor's mansion include a reflecting pool, a classical temple and a pyramid-shaped vaulted ceiling in the master bedroom. Radio station KUAR obtained architectural drawings for the 8,700-square-foot complex that would adjoin the current mansion. Gov. Mike Huckabee and his wife say they have only 1,000 or so square feet of private living space.

Dress code dispute

KY SHEPHERDSVILLE — Lisa Whiteside began protesting outside Bullitt Central High School after learning that two Muslim students who had enrolled after winter break had been allowed to wear a hijab, which covers the head and neck. Whiteside said her son, a senior, was given in-school suspension for wearing a white button-down shirt rather than the mandated polo-style shirts.

School board attorney Eric Farris said that school records indicated that the student wasn't disciplined, but received a warning Sept. 1 that his shirt was in violation of the dress code.

Though the dress code also prohibits headwear, Farris said federal protections of such religious garments as hijabs take precedence.

School officials and students said Whiteside's protests attracted the attention of the Ku Klux Klan. She was joined outside the school by other men and women, some of whom were clad in white robes and carried Confederate flags and white-supremacist regalia.

Whiteside said she didn't organize any involvement with the KKK, adding that her concerns were being misconstrued as racially driven.

No abuse found

MO KANSAS CITY — A jury acquitted a businessman in his third trial on charges he sexually abused his stepdaughter over a three-year period.

Theodore White, 42, of Lee's Summit, was cleared of 12 charges, including statutory rape and statutory sodomy. Jurors deliberated about two hours.

White was convicted in February 1999 of molesting his stepdaughter over three years starting in 1995, when the girl was 10 years old. He fled to Costa Rica while awaiting sentencing but was captured. He was returned to Missouri and sentenced to 50 years in prison.

White was retried after the state Court of Appeals found that prosecutors did not reveal that a detective investigating the allegations had an affair with White's estranged wife.

Mail transformation

NY VESTAL — A former shopping plaza is being transformed into a housing complex for University of Binghamton students.

Developers of the \$40 million project said the complex will be able to house 700 students and a few businesses. The Binghamton University Foundation and private

developers funding the project expect the complex will be ready for the fall semester.

Tenn blames Zoloff

SC CHARLESTON — A teenager who contends the antidepressant Zoloff turned him into a killer stood in court and acknowledged he shot his grandparents as they slept and set their house on fire.

Christopher Pittman agreed when Judge Danny Pieper read a statement the defense doesn't contest that the then-12-year-old killed his father's parents when he was living with them in rural Chester County in September 2001.

Prosecutors contend Christopher shot Joe and Joy Pittman with a pump-action shotgun because they disciplined him for fighting on a school bus. The 15-year-old is being tried as an adult for murder and could get 30 years to life in prison if convicted. The defense claims Christopher was under the influence of Zoloff and couldn't tell right from wrong at the time of the slayings.

Zoloff maker Pfizer has vigorously fought cases claiming antidepressants cause violent or suicidal behavior.

And laptops for all

CT HARTFORD — Gov. M. Jodi Rell is proposing that the state spend more than \$15 million to provide laptop computers for all ninth- and 10th-grade English classrooms. Education Commissioner Betty Sternberg proposed the project because the state will eventually put the Connecticut Academic Performance Test online. The tests measure proficiency in math, reading and science.

Teacher goals rewarded

MN LA CRESCENT — Gone are the days when teachers' salaries rose automatically with years of experience, or academic credits. In this idyllic Mississippi River town, teachers get an annual raise only if they set and fulfill performance goals.

The idea of performance pay, a notion once reviled by most teachers — is getting a warmer reception here.

Teachers are trying hard to prove they're worth the money, from e-mailing parents to trying out different styles for their students.

Smell just too much

ME FRENCHVILLE — Northern winds have been sending a stream of manure from across the Canadian border, and the people in this St. John Valley town are tired of holding their noses.

Frenchville Town Manager Philip Levesque said the odor comes from a chicken manure composting facility in New Brunswick.

People in the town of about 1,200 smell from the plant along the St. John River are so bad when the north wind blows outdoor activities are curtailed.

Levesque said the town is inviting politicians and government officials from both sides of the St. John River to meet with residents Feb. 16 to air the issue.

Photos and stories from wire services

YOUR MONEY

Firms follow new function: No jobs result from foreign-funds law

BY RACHEL BECK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — When Kelllogg Co. announced plans to bring back \$1 billion in foreign profits to the United States this year thanks to new corporate tax breaks, it said it would use those funds to do such things as develop new products and explore potential acquisitions. It didn't mention directing that money toward creating jobs.

So much for all the hiring the government promised when it gave corporate America a tax holiday this year by allowing companies to repatriate their earnings from abroad at a tax rate of 5.25 percent rather than at the usual rate of 35 percent.

Cereal maker Kellogg surely isn't the only company doing with its money as it sees fit, and chances are it won't be the last.

U.S. companies do billions of dollars in business abroad, and the money they earn overseas doesn't have to be taxed by the United States until it is repatriated here. As a result, many companies haven't been quick to bring those profits back home.

That is, unless they have a good reason or a big incentive — like the one created as part of the American Jobs Creation Act that was signed into law in October.

Companies already are talking about the big bucks they plan to repatriate. Johnson & Johnson expects to bring back \$11 billion, while Schering-Plough Corp. estimated its total at \$9.4 billion.

In total, the economists at Goldman Sachs expect around \$300 billion to be repatriated, though estimates from other sources range from as high as \$600 billion to as low as \$100 billion. As for the tax incentives, revenue is forecast to rise by \$3.8 billion in fiscal 2005. But over the next nine years, the U.S. Treasury is expected to lose \$6.1 billion, according to congressional estimates when the bill was passed.

Lawmakers backing the "homeland reinvest-

ment" provision last year touted the idea of lower tax rates as a way to encourage companies to repatriate their earnings, and by putting extra money into corporate coffers, the thought was that companies would increase operating and investment activity and add jobs to payrolls.

Yet the devil in all this comes in the details. When it comes to the specifics in how the repatriated funds should be used, it turns out that what is considered permissible probably won't drive too many upswings in employment at all, and in some cases, could even spur layoffs.

In fact, a Morgan Stanley survey that was released late last year found that none of the investment firms' analysts believed that any of the companies they followed would use the repatriated earnings for hiring.

So what can this money be used for? Capital investments, debt repayment, advertising and marketing all make the OK list issued by the U.S. Treasury Department, as do acquisitions — which could actually hurt hiring because companies that merge tend to slash staff when consolidating their operations.

The government also says the money can be put toward the loosely defined category deemed "financial stabilization." Analysts say that under that banner companies could use repatriated money to cover shortfalls in their pension funding levels.

When using the repatriated funds, companies aren't required to ramp up spending in the permitted areas. That means a company with a \$500 million advertising budget can use repatriated money to cover those costs, which would then free up the \$500 million that it had originally earmarked for advertising elsewhere.

So in a roundabout sort of way, the repatriated earnings can go toward things like executive compensation, share buybacks and dividend payments — all of which aren't permitted under the government's repatriation rule.

Good luck to those investors who want to figure out what money is being spent where. Companies don't have to segregate repatriated funds from other cash.



Perhaps in reaction to how a recent price hike was received by small-business owners, San Jose, Calif.-based eBay Inc. announced this week that it would reduce several fees and promised to improve service for some customers of the online auction giant.

eBay cuts several fees as others rise

BY RACHEL KONRAD
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Less than a month after announcing a price hike that enraged small-business owners, eBay Inc. said it would reduce some fees and promised to improve customer service.

The online auction giant said in a Web posting Sunday it would credit \$15.95 — the cost of a one-month subscription — to small-business owners who operate "Basic eBay Stores" would increase from \$9.95 to \$15.95, and the fee for a standard listing of 10 days would double, from 20 cents to 40 cents.

The price hikes — which could dent profits for thousands of small-business owners who hawk clothing, electronics and other low-margin commodities on eBay — are still expected to go into effect Feb. 18.

For the past three weeks, eBay sellers have peppered executives with angry e-mails, threatening to increase the prices that buyers pay, close their stores or defect to auctions hosted by Yahoo.com or plucky startups.

bruised relations with small-business owners.

"I've been ... thinking hard about how we can make eBay remain a fun, safe place to trade, and a prosperous home for our many dedicated sellers," Cobb wrote. "We're listening to everything you have to say."

In mid-January, eBay warned sellers in a terse e-mail that the monthly subscription fee for people who operate "Basic eBay Stores" would increase from \$9.95 to \$15.95, and the fee for a standard listing of 10 days would double, from 20 cents to 40 cents.

The price hikes — which could dent profits for thousands of small-business owners who hawk clothing, electronics and other low-margin commodities on eBay — are still expected to go into effect Feb. 18.

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TUESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES				
52-week High	Low	Net Change	% Chg	52-week Low
10,888.8	9,768.40	Dow Jones Industrials	+1,274.63	+8.80
3,822.56	2,421.66	Dow Jones Transportation	+549.87	+7.74
352.81	255.08	Dow Jones Utilities	353.19	+1.38
1,470.86	1,154.74	NASDAQ Composite	1,472.18	+2.24
2,181.69	1,750.62	Nasdaq Composite	2,186.66	+0.22
1,217.90	1,064.72	S&P 500	1,220.38	+0.85
548.29	548.29	S&P 500 MidCap	548.29	+0.00
666.11	515.90	Russell 2000	638.72	+2.10
12,424.4	10,268.52	Russell 2000	11,895.16	+8.39

NYSE				
Most Active (\$1 or more)	Net Change	% Chg	52-week High	52-week Low
Apple (AAPL)	1.39	+1.01	100.00	75.00
Microsoft (MSFT)	25.05	+0.10	100.00	75.00
Google (GOOG)	1.40	+0.10	100.00	75.00
Amazon (AMZN)	1.40	+0.10	100.00	75.00
Facebook (FB)	1.40	+0.10	100.00	75.00
Twitter (TWTR)	1.40	+0.10	100.00	75.00
LinkedIn (LNKD)	1.40	+0.10	100.00	75.00
Dropbox (DBX)	1.40	+0.10	100.00	75.00
Slack (SLCK)	1.40	+0.10	100.00	75.00
Zoom (ZM)	1.40	+0.10	100.00	75.00
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Stripes Travel



An appetite for Paris

The French capital offers dozens of appealing places to have a romantic lunch or dinner, such as this barge making its way along the Seine.



Philippe Carre offers an oyster in his restaurant, Le Parc à Huitres, in Paris.

AP photos

Food blends with romance in the City of Light

BY SUZY PATTERSON

The Associated Press

How do you celebrate Valentine's Day in Paris — an obvious romantic destination for courting lovers?

You can do just about anything from sharing a baguette and a bottle of wine under a bridge by the Seine to a multicourse dinner at an acclaimed restaurant with wine selected from a well-stocked cellar.

Regardless of where you are, nobody notices when you are stealing kisses, because that's so Parisian. But if you really want to do it in style, check out some of the following options. Remember that the French devote as much care to gastronomic pursuits as to love — pastimes that go together here.

• **Taillevent, temple of elegant dining.** This renowned monument to gastronomy near the Etoile-Arc de Triomphe is a perennial winner with guidebook gourmets and well-heeled honeymooners, whether French, American, Japanese or Russian. Service is elegant, never condescending.

Opened in 1946 by Andre Vrinat in a 19th-century mansion, it once belonged to the Duc de Morny, an illegitimate grandson of Napoleon Bonaparte. Morny used it as a bachelor pad for trysts. The restaurant was named after the first famous French 14th-century chef, Taillevent. Vrinat's son, Jean-Claude, the current owner, is an affable host who enjoys sharing the mansion's history.

Treats here include the *boudin* sausage of lobster and salmon, with tarragon, plus a frothy emulsion of lobster stock flavored with star anise; or an excellent Chalosse duck *foie gras* with apricot marmalade and toast.

Other remarkable dishes by chef Alain Soliveres are a *barigoule*, or fresh warm salad of baby artichokes with crayfish; or a creamy pudding of crayfish with an Iranian caviar topping and a perfect lobster sauce.

Main courses, such as roast veal chop with young carrots and arugula salad, sound deceptively ordinary, but are perfect in quality, sauces and execution. Desserts and *petits fours* follow suit with sweet-tart flavors.

The wine cellar is legendary, but you can choose by glass, carafe or bottle, according to taste and pocketbook. Taillevent is in the galaxy of top prices, but worth it, starting at about \$140 or so a person, up to \$200 or so for a real blowout. Location: 15 rue Lamennais, Paris; phone (+33) (0) 1 44-95-15-01.

• **1728, A fine romance in sensuous style.** The elegant restaurant 1728 is reasonably priced for its superb setting, food and service. Named for the year the building was constructed, it is also known as the former home of the Marquis de Lafayette, champion of the American Revolution. Its fabulous and frivolous decor recalls of Mme. de Pompadour, the powerful mistress of King Louis XV, who rented the mansion in the mid-18th century.

SEE ROMANCE, PAGE 22

ROMANCE, FROM PAGE 21

The cuisine by a chef from Beijing is fusion at its very best, mixing the best French ingredients with exotic spices and herbs.

Fusion, in a French monument? "It's working well," said the owner, Jean-François Chuet. A high-powered French businessman, he is married to Li-ning, a Chinese classical musician who runs the staff and reception with a firm hand and chooses the muted classical background music.

Chuet loves the restoration he invested in and the art he has acquired for the building. Some is for sale, but not the beautiful recent bust of Lafayette by Parisian sculptor Marc Deligny, prominent in the restaurant's bar-entry.

"We're like an art gallery, restaurant and tea house," says Chuet.

In the gleaming new kitchen, chef Gao-Lin turns out tempting dishes like Duo Pompadour — shelled Norway lobster tails with carpaccio of sea bass, flavoured with dill, truffled olive oil, Thai basil, spiced with a tad of cayenne, and sprinkled with Chinese truffles.

Many seafood main courses also vie with steak or game for attention. A favorite is a spicy beef fillet perched on a mound of mashed potatoes finely dusted with Chinese truffles. Fabulous exotic fruit sorbets, dark chocolate cake-puddings and meringues wind up a sensuous meal.

The limestone wine cellar is stacked with 3,000 bottles, some priceless, others reasonable. "This was used as a prison during the French Revolution," said Chuet, unlocking an iron gate.

The main salons, however, look suitable for tender trysts by candlelight, or perhaps business lunches for people from fashion boutiques on the nearby Faubourg Saint-Honore.

Menu is a la carte. With a glass of good wine, plan to spend \$65 to \$100 a person; several courses and better bottles will run \$130 a person. Location: 8 rue d'Anjou, Paris; phone: (+33) (0) 1 40-17-04-77.

• Les Art, a garden haven.

This elegant restaurant housed in a former club for engineers, near the Guimet Oriental Museum and the Trocadero, boasts a peaceful terrace for balmy summer days. In cool or rainy weather, the classic indoor rooms are spacious and chic. Service is discreet, friendly and efficient.

On the reasonable \$47 menu (not including wine), a recent tasting turned up a tender puff pastry filled with wild mushrooms in a creamy-wine sauce, main courses such as a succulent slice of roast veal in light sauce of veal reduction, celery and chestnut purées on the side. The *gambaja* dark chocolate tart was positively voluptuous, and the fresh peach and raspberry soup with mint made a fresh contrast.



AP photos

A waitress gauges the readiness of a Paris restaurant called L'Espadon Bleu.

With wine, prices range from \$50 to \$100 a person. Location: 9 bis, Ave. d'Iena, Paris; phone: (+33) (0) 1 40-69-27-53.

• **L'Espadon Bleu, Latin Quarter Charm.** L'Espadon Bleu (which means "blue swordfish") offers delicious food in a small yet spacious restaurant between the Seine and the Odéon. It belongs to Jacques Cagna, famous for his Michelin-guide-starred establishment a few doors away.

When Cagna bought the Espadon a couple of years ago, it was converted from an all-fish menu and rather dreary decor into a charming Mediterranean-style spot in ochers and sea blues.

Fish is still important, but now the menu includes choices like *osso bucco* with a touch of orange and fresh *tagliatelle*. Prices at lunch are in the \$40 range (wine extra) for a set menu, less than a third the price of Cagna's flagship restaurant.

A recent sampling at lunch included a wonderful fresh crayfish salad with artichokes and excellent spicy vinaigrette; a *foie gras* paté with small watercress salad, and small, fresh-grilled sea bass with sorrel. The fish was perfectly cooked, but was served whole, and demanded skilled filleting at the table to avoid tiny bones.

A good house wine Pouilly fume wine plus chocolate-pudding cake and Grany Smith tart apple compote with bitter-almond ice cream completed the superb, but not heavy lunch.

Prices are \$50 to \$90 a person. Location: 25 rue des Grands Augustins, Paris; phone: (+33) (0) 1-46-33-00-85.

• **Le Parc à Huitres, oysters as aphrodisiacs.** This unassuming little oyster-shellfish bar between the Seine and the Invalides might not seem a roman-



When the guests arrive, tables at L'Espadon Bleu brim with eye-appealing treats.



Canada's Marco Pelletier selects a Haut-Brion 1929 in the cellar of Taillevent restaurant in Paris

tic haven. But it's great for a quiet lunch or candlelight supper and boasts the freshest, best live oysters in town. In cinematic Tom Jones-style, you can slurp up the "pearl specials," the "but-terflies," the flat *belons*, the clams or cooked crabs with house mayonnaise, while gazing at your beloved.

The bar-restaurant has menus

at \$23 and \$36, your choices are accompanied by great bread and sweet butter, a glass of wine, and can be topped off with a warm apple tart from Poujauran, a terrific nearby baker.

For those who are not keen on oysters or the other shellfish available, the little restaurant (seating 22 maximum) also offers the best fish soup east of

Brittany — complete with little country-style toasts, fresh-ground cheese, saffron and garlic-flavored mayonnaise (*rouille*), and extra garlic buds.

An a la carte lunch or dinner sh. could not exceed \$58 a person, wine included. Location: 50 Blvd. de la Tour-Maubourg, Paris; phone: (+33) (0) 1-40-62-93-97.

• Romance on the scenic

Seine. Hold hands, sip and taste, as you cruise by the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame. Several tour barges cruising the Seine offer candlelit dinners, a good way to sample Paris by night, though food quality may vary.

The well-known Bateaux Mouches — phone (+33) (0) 1-42-25-9610 — has a special evening menu with music, wine and service included for \$160 a person. Special lunches (weekends, holidays only) cost \$65, wine and service included.

The Capitaine Fracasse line — (+33) (0) 1-46-21-48-15 — offers "gourmet" dinners for \$50 a person weeknights or \$76 Saturdays, wine not included. Call for details on a higher-priced Valentine's Day dinner.



Stars and Stripes

February 18 - 21, 2005



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BY KAREN BRADBURY

Stars and Stripes

When Feb. 14 looms, all the folks with spouses and sweethearts begin to dream of romantic getaways and candlelit dinners.

But according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, only 52 percent of Americans older than 15 live with their legally married spouses, and a full 26.6 percent have never been married.

Factor in those with a deployed spouse, along with those who are widowed, separated, between relationships or otherwise not part of a couple, and it's evident that a sizable chunk of us will be spending Valentine's Day alone.

Cause for tears and heartache? Hardly.

Whether with a friend of the same sex or on your own, there's plenty to do on Valentine's Day weekend, which falls on Feb. 12-13 this year. And if you plan to take advantage of any advertised specials, check to see if the promoter will allow you to double up with a buddy.

For example, many of the local offices of the USO offer special trip packages that can just as easily be booked by friends sharing a room or single travelers paying a small supplementary charge. The "Valentine's Day in Paris" tour sponsored by the USO in Kaiserslautern, Germany, includes an overnight hotel stay, city tour, dinner and a river cruise for about \$330. Same-sex travelers can simply ditch the long-stemmed rose from the table and enjoy the lovely French cuisine without worrying about overlooking in the presence of a partner's overcritical eye.

In fact, you might find the smattering of events listed below more conducive to excursions with a friend than with a partner.

In Derby, England, you can toast your freedom and work on a date for next Valentine's Day by heading to an event that draws people of like interest. Beer lovers come in both sexes, and tasting it can be fun, educational and for a good cause. The Campaign for Real Ale, or CAMRA, holds a winter beer festival in Derby from until Saturday.

CAMRA is an independent consumer organization that champions consumer rights in relation to the beer and drinks industry, aiming to promote quality, choice and appreciation of traditional beers and ciders as part of heritage and culture. If you're already booked this weekend, CAMRA sponsors a variety of beer festivals throughout the year (www.camra.org.uk).

If your old love was figure skating, you can recapture your childhood dream of becoming a world-class skater, or work on inspiring a new generation, by gliding over to Munich to see "Holiday on Ice." The show's theme is "Diamond Dreams," and it's running through Sunday at the Olympiahalle. At press

time, tickets were still available through www.muenchenticket.de.

For those who still love to skate, you can show off your double Salchow at a rink set up in front of the Hotel de Ville in Paris from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Best of all, it's free. Skate rental is available (www.paris-touristoffice.com).

If not skating, there's tennis. The Open Gaz de France takes place through Sunday at the Stade Pierre de Coubertin in Paris. The entrants in this women's tournament include last year's Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova, this year's Australian Open winner Serena Williams, former No. 1 Amélie Mauresmo and Elena Dementieva. Some seats are still available (www.opengazdefrance.com).

Intrepid female travelers might be interested in learning more about their forebears. The cycle of films titled "Cinéma des voyages des années 20-60" being screened at the cinemas of the Centre Pompidou through Sunday pay tribute to 16 female photographers, writers, filmmakers and journalists who traveled the world between 1920 and 1950. These works tell us much about women's contributions towards early documentary filmmaking. Saturday's offering showcases the work of Laura Bolton in the Arctic; on Sunday, Marie-Alice Hactin's film of archaeological expeditions to Afghanistan is screened. On both days, the work of Mary Marvin Breckinridge Patterson, a war correspondent for CBS during World War II, is presented. (Web site: www.cnc-cp.fr).

Anglers, cast your sights on Verona, Italy. There at the Exhibition Center, you will find a show focusing on sport fishing through Sunday. The fishing exhibition is part of a larger event, the Nautical Show, where boat lovers can lose themselves in a world of yachts, inboard and outboard motorboats, and sailboats of all descriptions (www.nauticshow.com).

American football is a manly sport, but it has nothing on rugby. Rome is the venue for one of the Six Nations Championship games, where you can see Italy and Wales (www.istc.org/sip/?x=event&event_id=107353) battle it out Saturday at Stadio Flaminio. For something different: Women also play rugby on a professional level. On Sunday, England's women take on France at Imber Court near Twickenham, U.K. (www.6nations.net).

The enjoyment of a concert wouldn't be diminished by attending with a same-sex buddy. Anastasia will be raising the room temperature a few degrees when she performs Friday in Bolzano, Italy, and Sunday in Graz, Austria. And old favorite R.E.M. will may stir up a few memories when it performs Saturday in Stuttgart, Germany. To get tickets at such a late date, however, you'd need to resort to using a ticket agency.

Those setting up house or in need of fresh ideas for their old digs can check out "Ambiente," at the Frankfurter Messe Friday through Tuesday. This exhibition of consumer goods is geared toward not only retailers, but all those in love with the world of design. Product groupings include table, kitchen, housewares, and gift articles, to name only a few of the more than 100 exhibitions. Running parallel to this in Messe Offenbach is an exhibition of the latest trends in Asian living (<http://ambiente.messefrankfurt.com>).

Car lovers may wish to head to Amsterdam to check out AutoRAI. Through Feb. 20, 11 exhibition halls full of automobiles from 62 different makers including Aston Martin, Corvette, Ferrari, Lotus and Maybach are on display.

The show's theme is "Excitement, Fun, Inspiration and Passion," and if you find yourself just one of the four mentioned, that wouldn't be a bad day out, now, would it? (www.autorai.nl).

The show's theme is "Excitement, Fun, Inspiration and Passion," and if you find yourself just one of the four mentioned, that wouldn't be a bad day out, now, would it? (www.autorai.nl).

Being solo on Valentine's doesn't mean you can't travel

E-mail Karen Bradbury at: bradburyk@mail.estrps.osd.mil.

Switzerland's classy confection

Producer safeguards the quality of its fine chocolate

BY LEAH LARKIN

Special to Stars and Stripes

"The food of the gods" — that's the meaning of *theobroma*, the name botanist Linnaeus gave the plant that produces the cocoa bean.

Chocolate is sensual, decadent, sinfully delicious. It makes you feel good, gives you a lift, provides energy. And, it's good for you. In ancient times it was the food of princes and the wealthy, and even into the 20th century this delicious sweet was still a luxury indulgence reserved for the upper classes.

No wonder it makes an ideal Valentine's Day gift.

Today, the Swiss are said to produce the world's finest chocolate — and are the world's biggest consumers of it. They consume about 26 pounds per person per year, more than any other nationality. Americans consume a mere 11½ pounds per capita a year.

No Swiss chocolate can be called shabby, but perhaps the best comes from Confiserie Sprüngli, the country's most famous producer of exclusive chocolates.

This small family-owned company, which has been making fine chocolates for 169 years, has 16 shops in Zurich, and recently opened one in Basel and another in Zug.

"We are a small company producing handcrafted luxury chocolate, one of the most important brands," says Sprüngli CEO Tomas Prenosil.

Don't export. You can't buy our products in department stores... We have very strict quality control which is why we can produce such a lovely product."

Prenosil waxes poetic on his company's coveted "truffles du jour," chocolate truffles that are never more than 24 hours old.

"It's such a pure, lovely, innocent product. I'm very proud of it," he says of this prized confection, made with only fresh cream and chocolate. He says he eats "one or two" every day.

Actually, Prenosil doesn't "eat" chocolate, he "savors" it. And he describes the way it should be consumed as if he were talking about a fine wine.

"Enjoying chocolate stands with the eyes," he says. "What does it look like? Observe the color. Does it shine like silk?"

Then move on to the nose. The smell should be full and rounded. "Bad cocoa butter stinks," he says. Bite into the chocolate. The edges should break clean. The surfaces should not crumble.



PHOTOS BY LEAH LARKIN (Special to Stars and Stripes)

A customer checks out the chocolate at one of Confiserie Sprüngli's shops in Zurich, Switzerland.

Don't swallow it all at once, he cautions. "Let the chocolate melt in your mouth. Inhale through your mouth. Exhale through your nose. Give the chocolate time to develop its flavors in your mouth," he says.

Repeat the process with the next bite. If it's quality chocolate, you'll have the wonderful chocolate flavor in your mouth for hours, he says.

Many Swiss companies produce chocolate in other parts of the world, but only chocolate produced in Switzerland adhering to strict production standards

can rightfully be called "Swiss chocolate."

What about Belgian chocolate? Prenosil graciously acknowledges that the country to the

north produces excellent chocolate, too, and that it is probably as good as Swiss chocolate. The difference is marketing, he says, with companies such as the Belgian Godiva spending big bucks on marketing and advertising, and opening up stores around the world.

"You don't see retail shops in

the U.S. for Swiss chocolate like you do for Godiva," he points out.

Sprüngli has no interest in going global, and it's all about safeguarding excellence. The average shelf life of its chocolate is just three weeks. It uses no additives to prolong shelf life, Prenosil explains, because that would compromise quality and flavor.

Quality costs. A tiny bag of six Sprüngli "today's truffles" goes for 9.20 Swiss francs — about \$8.25.

While no one really knows who invented chocolate candy, the Swiss get credit for discovering milk chocolate. They still prefer lighter chocolate, but Sprüngli is trying to convert them to the dark variety. "Grand Cru," an assortment of chocolate made with four different kinds of dark chocolate, each from a different country (Madagascar, Venezuela, Cuba and Ecuador) is being promoted in a classy black and gold box.

Sprüngli also just launched another new dark chocolate product: "Truffles Cru Sauvage," truffles made with cocoa beans that grew wild in the Amazon region of Bolivia.

Pick up some for your Valentine and give it a try. You'll be glad you did.

Leah Larkin, a member of the Society of American Travel Writers, is a journalist living in France.



Above: Confiserie Sprüngli's truffles should be sold within 24 hours of being made, and consumed within 24 hours of that.



Left: The company's Grand Cru chocolate assortment is made with cocoa beans from four countries, and it is sold only in Switzerland.

More on chocolate

• Nineteenth-century naturalist Alexander von Humboldt said of cocoa: "Nature has nowhere concentrated such an abundance of the most valuable foods in such a limited space as the cocoa bean."

Indeed chocolate is full of important and energy-giving substances, including calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, iron, copper and vitamins A, B1, B2, C, D and E. It contains a small amount of theobromine, which has an invigorating effect. It provides energy, satisfies food cravings between meals, enhances concentration and boosts stamina.

• In southern Switzerland, the "chocolate train," a nostalgic Belle Époque train, runs from Montreux to Gruyère from June through October. It stops in the town of Broc for a visit to the Nestlé/Cailler chocolate factory. For hygienic reasons, you do not tour the factory where chocolate is being made, but you view a

multilingual film on the manufacture of chocolate, and there's lots of delicious free chocolate to sample at the end of the visit. The shop offers Cailler or Nestlé candy bars at factory prices. More information at www.mob.ch or by calling (+41) (0) 21-989-8190.

You can visit the Broc factory on its own, without the train ride. Weekday hours are 9-11 a.m. and 1:30-4 p.m. May through October. Reserve by calling (+41) (0) 26-921-5151.

• Also in southern Switzerland at Caslano-Lugano is the Schoko Land Museum, the Alprose Chocolate Museum. Details at www.alprose.ch.

• More information on Sprüngli is at www.confiserie-spruengli.ch. Chocolate can be ordered at kundendienst@spruengli.ch.

• More information on Swiss chocolate is at www.chocuisse.ch.

— LEAH LARKIN



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes



Blue shutters give a splash of color to a building across from the arena in Arles, France.

agreeable Arles

BY MICHAEL ABRAMS

Stars and Stripes

Sitting at a café a few years ago, with a Provençal sun beating down from a deep blue sky, I was pretty sure that Arles, France, was the most perfect spot on earth.

Part of it might have been that it was early March, and we were escaping a cold, damp German winter with a trip to the Riviera. We had left the crazy carnival of Nice for a couple of days to see the Roman sights at Nîmes and Arles. Sipping a glass of rosé and watching the world go by, it seemed it couldn't get much better than this.

A couple of years went by, and on a recent vacation in nearby St.-Remy-de-Provence, we decided to take a day trip to Arles, and see if it could live up to the memories.

As chance would have it, the preceding days had been cold, cloudy and wet, but as we headed to Arles, the sky was blue and the sun was heating the autumn air.

The city had not changed much since the last visit, but why should it have? Arles dates to about the sixth century B.C., when Greeks from Marseille settled it. The Romans took over in 49 B.C., and their reign over the city lasted until the eighth century. Later there was a Kingdom of Arles, and still later the town was ruled by the counts of Provence.

Vincent van Gogh lived here for about a year in 1888, painting many of his famous works. Today Arles is the rice-growing capital of France and features some of the Provence's top cultural events, with the Camargue bull races, bullfights during the Easter and rice festivals and the International Photo Festival, to name a few.

The old town of Arles is easily seen on foot, simply by wandering through its narrow lanes.

The St. Trophime church is not too bad as far as churches go, but you can see the best part of it without even entering. Its ornately carved 12th century doorway is a classic example of the Provençal Romanesque style. Check out all the exquisite creatures carved on it. The cloisters next door are also

worth a look.

Next we strolled up to the Roman Theater, but it was closed for lunch, so we wandered past shops selling Provence souvenirs to the first-century Roman amphitheater. It measures 446 feet by 351 feet and could once seat more than 20,000 spectators for fun and games. Since it's still used for bullfights and the Camargue Races, it's not hard to imagine what it was like in the days of the gladiators. Climb to the top tier for a great panoramic view of the arena and Arles.

By now, most of the tourists and locals had settled down for lunch. Arles is dotted with plenty of cafés and restaurants to choose from, but having had a late breakfast, we chose to wander around town for a while. We passed through the Place du Forum, home of a statue of writer Frédéric Mistral and the Café van Gogh, painted by the artist in 1888.

We finally had lunch at the café at Espace Van-Gogh. Once a hospital where van Gogh was treated in 1889, it is now a center housing archives, a library, an academic center and shops. Its courtyard garden has been replanted to look like his painting "Garden of Arles Hospital."

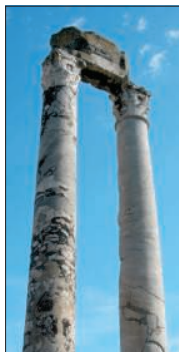
Following an after-lunch coffee at the Café van Gogh — not cheap, but it is the subject of one of my favorite van Gogh paintings — we returned to the theater.

Much of the original Roman theater has disappeared through the years. Built in the first century B.C., it was in use as a quarry by the first century. Later houses were built over it, and it was not excavated until the mid-1800s. In its time, though, it must have been magnificent. Measuring 335 feet in diameter, it could seat 12,000. Today, a modern grandstand has been built inside and the theater is still performed among its ancient stones.

Later we did some souvenir shopping — Arles is a good place to pick up Provençal specialties, such as colorful tablecloths, salt from the Camargue and absinthe — and some more wandering, before heading back to St. Remy.

Maybe Arles is not the best spot on earth, but on a mild, sunny day, it comes pretty darn close.

E-mail Michael Abrams at: abramsm@mail.estripes.odm



Two columns still stand amid the ruins of the 1st century B.C. Roman theater in Arles. Today, theater is once again performed here.



The Café Van Gogh on the Place du Forum in Arles was the subject of a painting by van Gogh in 1888.



The Rue de l'Amphithéâtre in Arles is the end of the 1st century.



The Roman theater in Arles was built in the 1st century B.C. In the summer, theater is still performed here.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

leads to the city's famed Roman amphitheater, the Arenes, which dates to



around 25 B.C. It was 335 feet in diameter and could seat 12,000 people here.



These fellows decorate the facade of the St. Trophime church.



A modern fountain in the Jardin d'Ete park shows a reflection of the tower and walls of the Roman Theater in Arles.



A sign advertises a restaurant in Arles, which boasts many good restaurants offering typical French cuisine and specialties of the Provence.

If you go to Arles, France

- **Where:** Arles is in southern France. Driving from Germany, head past Lyon on Autoroute A-7 until Orange, then take A-9 to Nîmes and A-54, or highway N113, to Arles. Coming from Italy or the Riviera, take A-8 past Aix-en-Provence to A-7, head north to Salon-de-Provence, and take A-54 to Arles. At St.-Martin-de-Crau A-54 will turn into N-113. All the autoroutes mentioned are toll roads.

- **When to go:** All year, but late winter to late autumn is the best. A good, but busy time to visit, is during the Fête de Pâques (Easter Festival) and the Fête du Riz (Rice Festival) from Sept. 9-11, this year, with bullfighting in the arena.

- **On the Web:** www.tourisme.fr.



Stars and Stripes

ville-arles.fr/UK is the city's English language site.

— MICHAEL ABRAMS

Ski Clubs & Events

COMPILED BY KAREN BRADBURY Stars and Stripes

The following information was provided by ski clubs and MWR Outdoor Recreation offices. Costs generally assume double occupancy; singles may pay more.

The fastest way to add, correct or update a listing is to send information by e-mail to: travel@estripes.osd.mil. You also may fax it to: (+49) (0) 6155-601-416. If you have questions, please call (+49) (0) 6155-601-380.

Clubs

ITALY

AVIANO SKI CLUB

Area: Northern Italy
Web site: www.avianoskiclub.com

Telephone: 0434 366 185 (Gloria Leonaruzzi, Vice President)

Trips: Feb. 18-21, Lake Bled, Slovenia, \$190; March 11-13, Molltaler Glacier, Austria, \$120.

GERMANY

FRANKFURT INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB

Telephone: 069-9720-3669

E-mail: info@fisweb.org

Web site: www.fisweb.org

Trips: Feb. 18-20, Verbier, Switzerland, 195 euros; Feb. 18-21, Crans-Montana, 265 euros; Feb. 25-27, Zell am See, Austria, 200 euros; Feb. 28-March 5, Banff, Alberta, Canada, 790 euros; March 4-6, Disentis/Sedrun, Switzerland, 165 euros; March 10-13, Chamonix, France, 235 euros; March 11-13, Films-Laax, Switzerland, 195 euros; March 18-20, Klosters, Switzerland, 255 euros; March 24-28, St. Moritz, Switzerland, 340 euros; March 26-April 2, Val Thorens, France, 485 euros; April 1-3, St. Anton 1H, Austria, 195 euros; April 8-10, Lech, Austria, 205 euros; April 14-17, Zermatt, Switzerland, 295 euros; April 28-May 1, Ischgl, Austria, 270 euros; June 16-19, Chiemsee Adventure, Germany, 285 euros; July 1-4, Sächsische Schweiz, Germany, 265 euros. These are first sign-up prices; prices then increase by 10 euros. Airfare is not included in price of Banff trip.

GRAFENWÖHR SKI AND SNOWBOARDING CLUB

Area: Grafenwöhr/Vilsbib

Telephone: DSN 476-1560, or civilian 0964-1831560

E-mail: GRAFSKICLUB@hotmail.com

Trips: Feb. 17-25, Dolomites, Italy, price TBA; March 18-20, Zell am See, Austria, price TBA.

HEIDELBERG INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB

Telephone: 06202-577-8422 or 06221-57-5352, or DSN 307-5352

E-mail: president@heidelsbergski.com

Web site: www.heidelsbergski.com

Trips: Feb. 18-21, Bad Hofgastein, Austria, 325 euros; Feb. 18-21, Films-Laax, Switzerland,



Courtesy of www.swiss-image.ch

A happy skier carves on the Gemsstock above Andermatt in Canton Uri, Switzerland.

225 euros; Feb. 20-26, St. Veit 1H, Austria, 400 euros; March 4-6, Zell am See, Austria, 190 euros; March 18-20, Davos/Klosters, Switzerland, 245 euros; March 19-26, Tignes, France, 765 euros; April 1-3, Engelberg, Switzerland, 285 euros; April 8-10, Arlberg, 210 euros; April 9-16, Val Thorens, France, (200-340 euros); April 29-May 1, Ischgl (220 euros); May 27-30, Bodensee (230 euros).

KAISERSLAUTERN SKI CLUB

E-mail: carperb@msn.com

Web site: www.ktownski.club.com

Trips: Feb. 17-21, Chamonix, France, 430 euros; Feb. 25-March 5, Trois Vallées, France, 480 euros; March 18-20, Lenzerheide, Switzerland, 210 euros; April 1-3, Verbier, Switzerland, 150 euros; April 22-24, Lech, Austria, 215 euros. A non-refundable 50-euro deposit is required for all trip sign-ups.

LABER SKI CLUB

Area: Southern Germany, Austria and northern Italy

Telephone: CIV 08822 9481 3100, DSN 440-2366

E-mail: President.Tim.Payne@nato.school.nato.int

Web site: www.nato.school.nato.int

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Tell us!

Do you have a favorite ski area/resort? We'd like to know about it. Please send us the name of the resort, the location, why you like it and any tips you have for other skiers. Include your name, current location and phone (for our verification purposes only). The e-mail address is: travel@estripes.osd.mil.

We also welcome jpeg images (min. 400 dpi) of you and your group skiing the resort or enjoying the après ski scene.

Trips: Feb. 12, Ratschings, Austria; Feb. 25-27, Switzerland (TBD); March 6, Seefeld, Austria; March 12, Ischgl, Austria; March 19-20, Passo Pordoi, Italy; April 2, Zugspitze, Germany.

MANNHEIM INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB

Telephone: Janet-Anne Boykin at 06206-75268

E-mail: boykinjan@hotmai.com

Web site: <http://ski.no-ip.info>

Trips: Feb. 18-21, St. Anton, Austria, 180 euros, bed and breakfast; March 4-6, Lech/Zurs/St. Anton, Austria, 130 euros; March 11-13, Montafon, Austria, 130 euros; March 18-20, Verbier, Switzerland, 140 euros; April 9-16,

Meribel, France, price TBA.

PATCH SKI CLUB

Area: Stuttgart

Telephone: DSN 430-5789

E-mail: info@psc-ski.org

Web site: www.patchski.club.org

Trips: Feb. 18-21, Jungfrau, Switzerland, 230 euros; March 4-6, Gstaad, Switzerland, 200 euros;

March 17-20, Chamonix, France, 390 euros; April 7-10, St. Moritz, Switzerland, 200 euros; April 9-16, Val Thorens, France, 320 euros;

April 29-May 1, Ischgl, Austria, 220 euros; May 27-30, Lermoos, Austria, 200 euros; May 27-30, Seig Golf I-St.Veit, Austria, 260 euros.

TANNENBAUM SKI CLUB

Area: Kaiserslautern Military Community, Eifel, Baumholder, Manheim regions, Rheinland-Pfalz and Spangdahlem

E-mail: David Hanavan, dave@tannenbaumski.club

Telephone: 06301-3478

Web address: www.tannenbaumski.club.com

Trips: Feb. 18-21, Verbier 4 Valleys, Switzerland, 210 euros; Feb. 18-21, Portes des Soies, France, 245 euros; Feb. 18-21, Bad Gastein, Austria, 235 euros;

March 4-6, Jungfrau, Switzerland, 180 euros; March 11-13, Films-Laax, 185 euros; April 1-3, Engelberg, Switzerland, 200 euros;

April 8-10, St. Anton, Austria, 165 euros; April 29-May 1, Ischgl, Austria, 205 euros. All trips are by bus except the Siegi trips, which are U-drives. U-drive arrangements can be made for other trips.

WESTPFALZ INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB

Area: Kaiserslautern Military Community

Web site: www.westpfalzski.club.org

Telephone: 06371-598537

E-mail: kdsowell@interquest.de

Trips: Feb. 18-21, Jungfrau, Switzerland, 230 euros; March 6-12, St. Veit, Austria, 350 euros, including ski school; March 11-13, Zell am See, Austria, 220 euros;

April 8-10, Lech, Austria, 220 euros; April 29-May 1, Ischgl, Austria, 215 euros.

WÜRZBURG INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB

Telephone: 0932 19244525

E-mail: wsclub@hotmail.com

Web site: www.wsclub.org

Trips: Feb. 18-21, Verbier, Switzerland, 220 euros; March 4-6, Jungfrau, Switzerland, 190 euros; March 14-20, St. Moritz, Switzerland, 400 euros; April 23-May 1, Ischgl, Austria, 230 euros; May 13-15, Landeck, Austria, price TBA; May 28-31, St. Veit, Austria, price TBA.

SEE SKI, PAGE 30



Alpine snow conditions

as of February 7, 2004

Resort	Ski Depth in"	Piste Info		Resort Runs	Lifts Open	General Information
		ON	OFF			
Kaunertal, AUS	150/40	Good	Varied	Good	8/8	Plenty of good snow at altitude
Mayrhofen, AUS	130/50	Excellent	Varied	Hard	24/24	Great skiing thanks to the recent snow
Neustift, AUS	200/20	Excellent	Varied	Good	21/24	Brilliant snow cond., across mountain
Oberstdorf, AUS	270/70	Excellent	Powder	Good	27/27	Great snow cond., throughout area
Pistia, AUS	200/60	Excellent	Varied	Closed	7/7	Superb cond., plenty of nice snow
St. Anton, AUS	240/75	Excellent	Varied	Good	83/83	Great skiing due to the recent snowfall
Zell Am See, AUS	180/85	Good	Varied	Good	28/28	Very good piste cond., best at top
Chamonix, FR	170/55	Good	Varied	Soft	47/47	Plenty of good snow at altitude
Les Deux Alpes, FR	120/50	Good	Packed	Packed	50/54	Plenty of good snow at altitude
Val d'Isère, FR	130/105	Good	Varied	Good	44/47	Great on piste cond., okay cond., off piste
Garmisch, GER	290/60	Good	Varied	Open	26/27	Great skiing due to the recent snowfall
Feldberg, GER	129/43	Excellent	Powder	Good	24/28	Superb cond., plenty of nice snow
Cortina, IT	90/40	Packed	Packed	Packed	46/47	Good skiing on well groomed pistes
Livigno, IT	137/50	Good	Packed	Packed	32/32	Great skiing on well groomed pistes
Passo Tonale, IT	100/70	Hard	Packed	Artificial	18/18	Best skiing found on upper slopes
Engelberg, SW	280/150	Excellent	Powder	Good	25/25	Great skiing on packed & groomed snow
Saas Fee, SW	235/50	Excellent	Crust	Hard	22/22	Fantastic skiing on and off piste!
Verbier, SW	140/60	Excellent	Powder	Excellent	33/36	Great skiing due to last week's snow
Zermatt, SW	231/160	Excellent	Varied	Excellent	30/30	Great conditions - wax up your skis!

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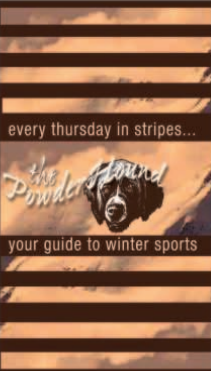
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Outdoor Recreation Ski Schedule

Kaiserslautern Polaris Berks, 489-7751/8631-536-7751
Feb. 18-21 Lauterbrunnen, Switzerland
Feb. 19, 20, 22 & 26 Ski Express
Feb. 25-27 St. Anton, Switzerland

Mannheim Taylor Berks, 381-7713/6621-738-7713
Feb. 12 Single Seiler 2 for 1 Feldberg, Germany
Feb. 13 & 26 Engelberg, Switzerland
Feb. 21 Family Ski trip to Feldberg, Germany

Darmstadt Coughlin-Francis, 388-6777/66151-49-6777
Feb. 12 Oberstdorf, Germany
Feb. 26 Feldberg, Germany
Mar. 5 Engelberg, Switzerland

Heidelberg Patrick Henry Village, 388-9382/6621-338-9382
Feb. 12 & 26 Skiing Feldberg, Germany

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Stars and Stripes

BY KAREN BRADBURY

Stars and Stripes

Send listings via e-mail at least two weeks ahead of the desired publication date to travel@starsandstripes.com. If you have questions, call (+49) 0 6156-00-868.

GERMANY

Baumholder Outdoor Recreation: Feb. 12, Amsterdam Express, \$85 adults, children half price. Call DSN 485-7182 or CV 06783-67182 or visit www.ammygermany.com.

Gieszen: March 5, Wachtersbach ceramic pottery and chicken farm restaurant, \$20 adults, \$15 children 4-11, \$5 under 3 years; March 19, 2005, \$199/89/49; March 12, Cologne Sightseeing, \$252/210; March 19, Dachau Concentration Camp and BMW Museum, \$49/39/19; March 26, Rothenburg tour, \$25/20/10. Call DSN 342-9282/8207 or CV 0641-402-8202/78207.

Roman Outdoor Recreation and Leisure Travel: March 12-13, Amsterdam night life trip, adults 19+ only; \$129. Call DSN 621-6015, CV 06183-51-6015.

Kaiserslautern Outdoor Recreation: Feb. 26, Rothenburg, Germany volkswagon, \$40; March 4-6, Paris with optional cycling tour, prices start at \$179; March 11, after work spa night, \$35; March 17-20, Prague, prices start at \$145; March 27, trout fishing, \$35; Call DSN 489-7715 or CV 0631-589-7751.

Katthaus Outdoor Recreation: Feb. 24, Würzburg Exchange, Transportation free. Call DSN 467-3225 or CV 09802-483-3225.

Mannheim Outdoor Recreation: March 12 and 26, April 16 and 30 paintball play days, ODR paint-

ball field, \$15 with own equipment, \$20 with ODR equipment; April 23, indoor climbing wall in Mannheim, \$30/24, Europa Amusement Park, \$30/24 bus, plus park admission fee of 26 euros adults, 15 adults, 10 children 4-11, Call DSN 381-7215/7232 or CV 06815-730-7215/7232.

Ramstein (KMC) RTT Destinations Unlimited: Feb. 12, 20 and 27, Rhine Castles, cruise and wine tasting, \$89; Feb. 12, King Ludwig's castles (Neuschwanstein and Linderhof) including stop at the Wiesloch, \$99; Feb. 18-20, Prague and Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic, \$189; Feb. 19-20, Brussels and Brugge, \$169; Feb. 26, tour of Cochem Castle and knights dinner, \$89; Feb. 19, Jallund, circus entertainment in a 19th-century doctor's prison in Rudesheim, including dinner and beverages, \$89, adults only.

Flight tours from Frankfurt: March 13-20, Moscow and St. Petersburg, 1049 euros (flight, hotels, overnight train, admissions, tours and lunches); April 8-15, Egypt, 1139 euros (flight, hotels, tours, admissions, three-day Nile cruise); April 9-16, Beijing and Xian, China, including Great Wall, Forbidden City, Xian's Terra Cotta Warriors, 1326 euros for flight, tours, admissions, many meals.

For all tours, contact DSN 480-6330/489-7064/496-7719, or visit www.RTTTravel.com.

Spangdahlem Information, Tickets and Travel: Feb. 12, dinner and wine tasting in the Mosel Valley, \$56; Feb. 18-19, Prague city and shopping, \$90 adults, \$36 children; Feb. 19, Strasbourg, \$39; Feb. 25-26, Berlin express, \$105 adults, \$95 children; Feb. 26, medieval dinner in Cochem Castle, \$79; Feb. 26-27, Amsterdam and Brugge with overnight stay, \$179 adults, \$159 children. Call DSN 452-6567 or CV 06565-61-6567.

SKI, FROM PAGE 29

Outdoor Recreation

ITALY

Vicenza Outdoor Recreation: Feb. 12 and March 19, Alleghe, Italy; Feb. 19, March 5 and 12, April 2, San Martino, Italy; DSN 634-7453.

GERMANY

Baumholder Outdoor Recreation: Feb. 19 and March 26, Feldberg, \$35 adults, \$45 children; Feb. 25-27 and March 11-13, Interlaken, Switzerland, \$125 transport and equipment rental, hostel lodging for 72 euros, DSN 485-7182.

Gieszen Outdoor Recreation: Feb. 19-21, Garmisch, Germany, \$199 adult, \$109 children

Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation: Feb. 14 and March 12, skating trip to Frankfurt; March 1, rock climbing in Nieder Olm; March 6 and 19, fishing in Limburg; March 8, 22, and 29, bouldering trip to Nieder Olm; March 10, 13, 17, 24 and 31, swimming in Frankfurt; March 27, large trout fishing in Limburg. Call DSN 337-5760 (Wiesbaden Army Airfield) or DSN 334-9819 (Anderson Barracks, Dexheim).

USO Kaiserslautern: Feb. 12, Bern, Switzerland, with fondue dinner, \$109 adults, \$99 children; Feb. 12, Brussels tour, \$69 adults, \$59 children; Feb. 12, Speyer tour, \$65; Feb. 19, Military Heritage Tour to Bastogne, site of the Battle of the Bulge, \$69; Feb. 19, Castles Hohenschanzen and Neuschwanstein, \$109 adults, \$99 children; Feb. 19, Cologne tour, \$49 adults, \$39 children; Feb. 19, Amsterdam tour, \$99 adults, \$89 children; Feb. 19-20, overnight tour to Paris for Black History Month, including hotel, river cruise and buffet breakfast, \$279 adults (double); \$269 child, \$90 single supplement; Feb. 24, German train orientation and trip to Trier, \$25; Feb. 26, German train orientation and trip to Heidelberg with castle and city tour, \$39 adult, \$29 child; Feb. 26, Luxembourg city tour and military cemetery, \$49 adult, \$39 child.

USO Mannheim: Feb. 26, Munich city tour and Dachau Concentration Camp, \$69; Feb. 26, Rhine River Fortresses Markburg and Ehrenbreitstein, \$49 adults; \$45 child; March 3, German train orientation and trip to Heidelberg, \$25; March 5, city tour and shopping in Lucerne, Switzerland, \$80 adult, \$79 child; March 5, Military Heritage Tour, Nuremberg and the Third Reich, \$69; March 5, Easter egg market in Michelstadt, ivory museum and country's castle, \$59 adults, \$49 children; March 5, Paris city tour, \$99 adults, \$95 children; March 5, Trier city tour, \$49 adults, \$45 children; March

12, Cochem Castle tour and wine tasting, \$55 adult, \$45 child; March 12, German train orientation and trip to Speyer with city tour, Technik Museum and IMAX Theater, \$39 adult, \$35 child; March 12, Maasricht, Holland, city tour, \$59 adults, \$55 child; March 20, theater evening in Frankfurt, "The Complete History of America (Abridged)," \$59; April 7-11, two nights in London, \$49 adults, \$49 children, single supplement \$169; April 12-17, Italian Spring Festival: Rome, Pompeii, Sorrento, Capri, Pisa and Florence, \$699 adults, \$679 children, single supplement \$195; April 23-24, Holland overnight including Keukenhof Gardens, flower parade and Delft; \$449 adults, \$229 children, single supplement \$35. Contact the USO at Vogelweh, DSN 489-6033, CV 0631-536-6033; Ramstein DSN 480-6326, CV 06371-42623; Landstuhl DSN 486-8240, CV 06371-63483, Kleber Kaserne, DSN 483-7397, CV 0631-16237, Pulaski Barracks, DSN 489-7233, CV 0631-536-732, CV 0631-536-732, CV 0631-536-740.

USO Rhein-Neckar (Darmstadt-Heidelberg-Mannheim): Feb. 12, Valentine overnight at Hirschhorn castle, \$130 per person double occupancy; Feb. 15, Mannheim orientation, \$5; Evelyn's wellness spa, \$29 for transportation; Feb. 19, Paris Overnight, \$269; Feb. 19, medieval dinner at Schloss Auerbach, \$7, 55 euro adults; 29 euro children 2-11; Feb. 19, Heidelberg orientation; \$10; Feb. 21, Eichbaum brewery tour, \$15; Feb. 22, Weinheim orientation; \$10; Feb. 23, Shopping in France; \$15; visit to farmers market and Alsatian pottery shops; \$35; Feb. 26, shopping in Mettlach with Villeroi and Bochs, Lands End, and Birkenstock shopping, \$29. Contact USO Darmstadt at DSN 548-7918; USO Heidelberg at DSN 730-7924; or USO Mannheim at DSN 385-3195.

ny, \$35 plus lift; Feb. 12, Single St. Anton, Austria, \$45 child; Feb. 26, March 12 and 26, April 2 and 10, Engelberg, Switzerland, \$50 plus lift; Feb. 21, family trip to Feldberg, \$25 plus lift; March 19, teen trip to Feldberg (\$25 plus lift), DSN 381-7215 or 0621-7300-7322.

NATO SCHOOL RECREATION CENTRE, OBERAMMERGAU: ski packages in Garmisch/Barvina, including: Feb. 19-20, beginner ski lessons, 28 euros, lift 15 euros; Feb. 25-27, 13 and 26-27, beginner snowboarding lessons, 28 euros, lift 13 euros; April 16 (and up) lessons include 1.5 days of beginner instruction. CV 08822-9461-3102.

RAMSTEIN Outdoor Recreation (KMC): Feb. 12, Feldberg, Black Forest, \$80 including lift, DSN 480-5705 or CV 06371-47-5705.

SPANGDAHLEM Outdoor Recreation: Feb. 18-20 and March 11-13, Gstaad, Switzerland, \$265 adults, \$344 doubles, 25

Italy

USO Naples: Feb. 12-13, Sweetheart Weekend with overnight in Florence and tour, 169 euros (over 18 only); Feb. 19-20, Umbria, with visits to Assisi, Perugia and Denta, 169 euros; Feb. 26-27, Tuscan, includes visits to Siena and San Gimignano and wine tasting, 169 euros; April 9-15, Greece tour by bus with visits to Athens, Ioannina, Metana, Delphi, Corinth, Epidaurus and Mycenae; adults \$98 euros; May 20-26, Egypt, price TBA. One-day tours are also available. Call DSN 625-9713 or visit www.uso.org/naples.

USO Rome: offers regular tours, including: Roman Holiday, a four-day tour with three nights in a three-star hotel, **Sundays through Wednesdays** (includes four meals and free guided tours; \$439 per person with discounts available); **papal audience, every Wednesday** (includes a tour of the Vatican Museums, the Pantheon, Trevi Fountain and Spanish Steps, **two days a week**; Romewalk, a three-hour walking tour, **two times a week**; a complete view of Vatican City, **six days a week**; a visit into the ancient Christian catacombs below Rome, **twice a week**; a walk and walking tour of the Colosseum with a walk through the Roman Forum, **four days a week**; Rome After Dark, p.m. tour, **twice a week**; **Saturdays**, includes dinner, Monuments of Rome **seven days a week**; Ancient Rome, includes Capitol Hill, Roman Forum, Colosseum, Basilica of St. Paul, outside the Walls, **seven days a week**; Christian Rome catacombs tour, includes Basilica of St. Mary Major, Basilica of St. Peter, **seven days a week**; Appian Way and Catacombs of St. Callistus, **seven days a week**; Illuminated Rome with dinner, **seven days a week**; illuminated Rome without dinner, **seven days a week**; Naples, Capri and Sorrento day tour, includes Naples city tour, Blue Grotto, Anacapri and lunch in Capri, **every day**; Tivoli day tour, **four times a week**. Call (+39) 01-6-686-4232 for more info. Check the Web site (www.uso.it) for details.

percent discount for children under 12; March 11-13, Black Forest, Feldberg, Germany, \$275 doubles. DSN 452-7170 or CV 06565-61-7176.

STUTTGART OUTDOOR RECREATION: Feb. 18-21, St. Gallenkirch, Austria, \$30 with equipment rental, \$15 without; April 10-17, St. Gallenkirch, Austria, \$590 adults, \$295 children; April 18-21, St. Gallenkirch, Austria, \$590 adults, \$295 children.

WIESBADEN Outdoor Recreation: Feb. 12, 26 and March 26 Engelberg, Switzerland, \$55; Feb. 16, snowboard maintenance clinic, \$15; Feb. 19-20 and March 26, Engelberg, Germany, Black Forest, \$175; March 5, 12, and 19 Black Forest (Feldberg), \$45; March 9 and 23, ski maintenance clinic, \$11.33, ski trip to the St. Forres Ski and Snowboard Championship in Garmisch; March 18-20, heli-skiing in Switzerland, \$337-5760 (Wiesbaden Army Airfield) or DSN 334-9818 (Anderson Barracks, Dexheim).



Volksmarch

The torch walk in Lichtenwalder, Germany, begins between 5 and 7 p.m., wrap up your 10-kilometer trail by 10 p.m. If walking with a burning torch or even a flashlight is not for you, walk the daytime event from 2 to 5 p.m. Medals from previous years will be available in limited quantities.

Are you planning for the annual walk in Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Germany, on Feb. 26 and 27? Walk the 6- and 11-kilometer paths from 7 a.m. to noon Saturday and from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday.

A 20K also will be held, from 7 a.m. to noon Saturday and 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday. The 11K old-city walk occurs only on Saturday and starts between noon and

5 p.m. Thanks to the following folks for sending folks marching brochures in date order:

Jennifer West



Mary Erickson, Bob and Lorraine Huffaker, Phil and Jan Schneider, Ute Allinger and Bob Gambert, Nancy Shawley, H. W. Henry, John and Patty Marsh, and Tim Lynch.

Here are some notes about this week's folksmarch events:

• Nordic walkers are welcome at the Gaufing, Germany, Sunday-only folksmarch, the 6K, 10K and 20K between 7 a.m. and noon, finish by 4 p.m. The event begins at the Realschule on Schulstrasse near the Rathaus.

• Dolphin wind chimes are the prize at Haisterkirch, Germany, this weekend. The

event begins at the Realschule on Schulstrasse near the Rathaus.

• The Cessalto, Italy, event, which begins next to the S. Maria Church, is a fairly flat route. There is a test tent at the end so food is available.

• The maximum walking time at Novanta Padovana, Italy, is four hours. The first 100 walkers will receive the award, a small ceramic mask that is the 20th in a series, the same day. The remaining walkers will need to pick up the award 30 days later. The mask is 4-5 inches high and is typical of the Carnivale masks common to Venice.

E-mail Jennifer West at volksmarch@mail.esrpress.org. Write her at: Volksmarch Column, Stars and Stripes, Bldg. 2959, Pulaski Barracks, APO AE 09227-3717 (MPS).

Here are events sanctioned by the International Federation of Popular Sports (Internationaler Volkssportverband, or IVV) near U.S. military installations in Europe. Locations are noted in the host language when possible. Find more extensive lists on the Web at www.ivv.org.

Country/Town	Days and Time(s)	Code	Km.	Starting Point	Award	Directional Reference
France						
Durstel	Sun 0800-1400	F	10 & 20	Salle Avenir	No award	SE of Sarreguemines
Kirschmaumen	Sun 0700-1400	F	10	Foyer socio-culturel	No award	NE of Thionville
Kirschmaumen	Sun 0700-1300	F	20	Foyer socio-culturel	No award	NE of Thionville
Germany						
Ehrenfriedersdorf	Sat & Sun 0700-1400	F	6 & 10	Dorfgemeinschaftshaus	No award	SAR, NW of Saarbrücken
Gaufing	Sun 0700-1200	BFNX3.5	6, 10, 20	Realschule	B-medal	MOB, SW of München
Haisterkirch	Sat 1000-1400, Sun 0730-1200	F	5 & 10	Gemeindehalle	Wind chimes	BWS, NE of Weingarten
Herborn	Sat 0700-1400, Sun 0700-1300	CF	20	Festsaal	Model semi-truck	HE, NW of Weizlar
Herborn	Sat & Sun 0700-1300	CF	20	Festsaal	Model semi-truck	HE, NW of Weizlar
Lichtenwalder	Sat 1400-1700	BFX	10	Grundschule	B-medal	BWN, E of Stuttgart
Lichtenwalder	Sat 1700-1900	BFTX	10	Grundschule	B-medal	BWN, E of Stuttgart
Nieder-Wieslen	Sat & Sun 0800-1400	F	5 & 10	Gemeindezentrum	Hedgehog figurine	RP, NE of Kaiserslautern
Nieder-Wieslen	Sat & Sun 0800-1300	F	20	Gemeindezentrum	Hedgehog figurine	RP, NE of Kaiserslautern
Zaisersweier	Sat & Sun 0700-1400	F	6, 11, 19	Turn- u. Gemeindehalle	Ceramic clown	BWN, NE of Pforzheim
Italy						
Novanto Padovana	Sun 0830-0930	F	6, 12, 21	See misc. notes	Bottle of wine	W of Portogruaro
Novanto Padovana	Sun 0830-0930	FX	6, 12, 21	Next to church	Small ceramic mask	W of Padova
Luxembourg						
Tetlingen (Tölzange)	Sun 0800-1400	F	6 & 12	Kulturzentrum	No award	SW of Luxembourg city
Switzerland						
Wessbad	Sat & Sun 0800-1300	-	5 & 10	Jugendunterkunft	Cow glass	S of St. Gallen
United Kingdom						
Barnsley	Sun 1030	-	5 & 10	Locke Park Car Park	Souvenir	-
Don Valley	Sun 0900-1000	-	10 & 20	Village hall	Clay glass	Near Blackthorn
Melbourn	Sun 1000-1100	-	10 & 20	St. John Arms	No award	E of Rushden

GENERAL CODES:

- B - Awards from past events available (B-medals)
- C - Bring a cup for free refreshments at control points

- D - Wash facilities at start hall
- F - Free refreshment at control points
- M - Marathon or long-distance event
- N - Nordic walking event
- P - Music at start hall
- S - Stroller-friendly trails

- g - Shorter trail noted as stroller-friendly in brochure
- T - Evening/Night walk, carry a flashlight
- W - Award available while supply lasts
- W - Course suitable for wheelchairs

- Y - Young-Walkers-Tour or Bambi-BLiss event
- 2.50 - 2.50 euros for start card & B-medal
- 3.50 - 3.50 euros for start card & B-medal

GERMAN REGION CODES:

- BWN - Baden-Württemberg Nord
- BWS - Baden-Württemberg Süd
- FRP - Oberfranken (Upper Franconia)
- FRM - Mittelfranken (Middle Franconia)

- FRU - Unterfranken (Lower Franconia)
- HE - Hessen
- MOB - München-Oberbayern
- NDS - Niedersachsen/Berlin
- NRW - Nordrhein-Westfalen
- NDB - Niederbayern

- OPF - Oberpfalz
- RP - Rheinland-Pfalz
- SAR - Saarland
- SCH - Schwaben
- SHH - Schleswig-Holstein/Hamburg
- THS - Thüringen/Sachsen

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New From
RTT!!

Let's Go

BY JAYNE TRAENDLY
Special to Stars and Stripes

Holocaust museum

Those who would like to learn more about the history of the Holocaust can visit the Shoah (Holocaust) Memorial in the Marais district in Paris. It is one of the largest information and research center in this history in the world.

The center has a reading room with archives of photographs and documents, a multimedia room with documentaries such as Stephen Spielberg's recording of the Holocaust survivors telling their stories, an auditorium for the Memorial's film series, exhibition rooms and the crypt for those wishing to meditate.

The center also will hold educational workshops and public readings. The address of the Mémorial de la Shoah Musée is 17 rue Geoffroy l'Asnier. The telephone number is (+33) (0) 1 42 77 44 72. The e-mail address is contact@memorialdelashoah.org. On the Web, go to: www.memorialdelashoah.org.

German roots

If you're in the area of Rosenheim, Germany, located between Munich and Chiemsee, you might want to stop in and check out the Lokschnuppen's exhibition, "Goodbye Bayern, Gritts Gott America," which runs through March 6.

According to the museum, a quarter of the American population can trace its origins back to German ancestors. The reasons for immigration included poverty, religious intolerance, political repression, asylum from the Nazi regime, marriage to American soldiers and the desire for adventure. Up to 40,000 Bavarians have lived in or moved to the United States.

The exhibition includes original exhibits from Germany and the United States, contemporary interviews, music, simulated scenes, photos and original objects.

The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekends. Admission costs 6 euros for adults and 3 euros for children.

For details, go to www.auswanderung-aus-bayern.de (in English and German). The Lokschnuppen Web site is www.lokschnuppen.de (in German). The telephone number is (+49) (0) 8031-365-9036.

The fastest way to submit items to be considered for the column is to send them via e-mail to travel@mail.esrpress.org.

Calendar

COMPILED BY JAYNE TRÄNDLY

Stripes Travel researcher

Listings are the latest available at press time but are subject to change. It's wise to confirm details with local tourism offices before traveling.

AUSTRIA

www.austria.info.at

VIENNA: Johann Strauss ball,

March 19.

VIENNA: Dream on ice, through

March 6. Ice skating at City Hall.

AURIS: International Dog Sleigh

Races on the Gold Trail, **Feb.**

26-27.

INNERKREMS: Dog sled races,

Euro championship, **March**

11-13.

VIENNA: Easter market, **March**

12-23. Castle Schönbrunn

HALL: Easter festival, **March 14,**

19-24-25.

VIENNA: OsterKlang Festival,

March 18-28.

SALZBURG: Easter festival, **March**

19-28.

BELGIUM

www.visitbelgium.com

THROUGHOUT the country: Anni-

versaries of 75 years of indepen-

dence, through **2005.**

BRUSSELS: Antiques show, through

March 30. Tour & Taxi.

STAVELOT: Mid-Lent carnival,

March 6.

BRUSSELS: Festival of fantastic

film, **March 11-26.**

CZECH REPUBLIC

www.visitczechia.cz

PRAGUE: Easter markets, **March**

18-April 8. Old Town and Wer-

estas Squares

ENGLAND

www.visitbritain.com

YORK: Viking festival, through

Feb. 20.

DOUGLAS: Festival of British

Railway Models, **Feb. 12-13.**

LONDON: Chinese New Year

celebrations, **Feb. 13.**

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6155-601-309 or fax (0) 6155-601-376.

Best bets for the week

GERMANY: If Easter egg markets are any sign of spring, the season is already beginning to hop. This year's first market opens this weekend in Seligenstadt's Land-schaft's Museum (Landscape Museum), near Frankfurt and Hanau. About 50 international exhibitors will show off their craftsmanship with eggs and other spring ideas. The market is open Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission for adults is 3 euros, free for children up to 14 years. For a listing of markets in central Germany, go to www.ostermarkete.de (in English and German).

Also in Germany: Motorcycle enthusiasts might want to check out Southern Germany's largest motorcycle fair at "Festination Motorrad," held in Sinsheim's fairgrounds Friday through the weekend. More than 120 exhibitors, motorcycles of all brands and biker accessories and clothing will be there. Also on the program are music, interviews and trial rides. The show is open Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets cost 8 euros for adults, 6 euros for children.

ENGLAND: According to the Chinese calendar, this is the year of the Rooster. The Chinese in London have been celebrating all week with films, lectures and variety

shows. On Sunday beginning at 11 a.m., you can join in on the fun at a grand parade organized by the Beijing tourist board. The parade along Charing Cross Road will include 150 costumed performers, such as stilt walkers, figures of the zodiac, and characters from the Beijing Opera and Imperial Court. A festival starts between noon and 1 p.m. on Trafalgar Square. Until 5:30 p.m., you'll find Dragon Dance, Chinese singing, theater, acrobatics, ballet and martial arts. Stalls, food and decorations will fill Chintown and Leicester Square. At 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. there will be a fireworks display from Leicester Square. Admission is free. For details, to www.london.gov.uk and the search "Chinese week" in the search box.

FRANCE: Menton's annual Lemon Festival (the French Riviera's second-largest event after Nice's carnival and Monaco's Formula 1 Grand Prix) begins tomorrow and continues through Feb. 27. This year's festivities take on a Spanish theme for the parade of 10 colorful floats decorated with citrus fruits on the Promenade du Soleil on Sunday afternoons. In addition, you can hear daily marching bands on the streets and visit the orchard festival and artisans' salon.

— JAYNE TRÄNDLY

LONDON: Outdoor adventure show, **Feb. 18-20.**

LONDON: International tourist guide day, **Feb. 19.**

LONDON: National wedding show, **Feb. 25-27.** Olympia

LONDON: Winter beerfest, **Feb. 27.** Kensington Town Hall

LONDON: International dog show, **March 5-6.** ExCel Docklands

BIRMINGHAM: Crafts dog show, **March 10-13.** NEC

LONDON: Classical music and instru-

ments exhibit, Olympia.

FRANCE

www.francetourism.com

DUNKERQUE: Carnival, **Feb. 13.**

NICE: Carnival, **Feb. 12-27.**

METZ: Flea market, **Feb. 19; April**

2, 16, 18, 19. 1 p.m.

PARIS: Annual winter store sales,

through **Feb. 12.**

STRASBOURG: Annual winter

store sales, through **Feb. 22.**

METZ: Annual winter store sales,

through **Feb. 22.**

MENTON: Lemon festival, **Feb.**

12-27.

BENSANCON: Carnival, **March**

12-14.

MARSEILLE: Carnival, **March 19.**

GERMANY

www.germany-tourism.de

BERLIN: International film festival,

through **Feb. 20.**

SINSHEIM: Motorcycle exhibition,

Feb. 12-13. Exhibition center.



Colton-Top Tamarin monkeys returned to Drayton Manor Theme Park and Zoo in Tamworth, England, last week after being stolen. Police recovered them in raids on two locations in the Erdington district of Birmingham, England. Zoo keepers are assessing the monkeys' health.

HANNOVER: CeBit, **March 10-16.** Computer fair.

HEIDELBERG: Long Night of the

Museums, **March 19.**

NEU-ANSPACH (Hessenpark):

Easter egg market, **March 19-20.**

HUNGARY

www.hungarytourism.hu

BUDAPEST: Spring festival, **March**

19-April 4.

HOLLOKO: Easter festival, **March**

27-28.

IRELAND

www.travel.ie

DUBLIN: St. Patrick's Day festival,

March 16-20.

ITALY

www.italiantourism.com

PERUGIA: Black truffle week, **Feb.**

25-27.

FLORENCE: Explosion of the cart

(fioreworks ritual), **March 27.**

THE NETHERLANDS

www.holland.com/uk

ROTTERDAM: Art Rotterdam, **Feb.**

23-28. Cruise terminal.

LANDELJUK: Carnival, **Feb.**

22-26.

AMSTERDAM: Hswa, **March 1-6.**

Water sports fair

AMSTERDAM: AutoRai, **Feb.**

10-20. International car show.

BREDA: Antique show, **Feb.**

24-27.

MAASTRICHT: European fine arts

fair, **March 4-13.**

SCOTLAND

www.visitscotland.com

GLASGOW: International comedy

festival, **March 10-26.**

EDINBURGH: Celtic culture,

March.

EDINBURGH: Easter festival,

March 24-28.

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GENEVA: International car show,

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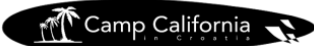
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AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the live scoreboard page in the sports section or AFRTS's live site at <http://myaftrts.com/media/aftrts/>

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2005

	AFN-FAMILY	AFN-MOVIE	AFN-EUROPE	AFN-KOREA	AFN-NEWS	AFN-SPORTS	SPECTRUM	AFN-PACIFIC
9:00	Stanley "Malgina Problems"	Movie *** "Born Into Glory" (1997, Drama) Gail Phillips. Two teenagers run away from home and head to California.	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Soccer 2002 World Cup Qualifier - Trinidad & Tobago vs. United States (Taped)	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9:30	Savage-Sesame Cat		(K-6) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	Navy/Maritime Corps News		Low Carb & Low Fat	Headline News
10:00	Arthur (E)		(K-6) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Design on a Dime	ESPNNews
10:30	Reading Rainbow (E)		(K-6) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News			Style Star	Pacific Report
11:00	Savage-Sesame Cat		(K-6) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News			For News Live	Two and a Half Men
11:30	Stanley	(K-6) Movie *** "Star Trek VI: The Voyage Home" (1991, Science Fiction) William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy	(17) General Hospital	Will & Grace	60 Minutes	SportsCenter	The King of Queens	Will & Grace
12:00	Dora the Explorer		Headline News	Alien "Doppelgänger"	The O'Reilly Factor	College Basketball Teams to Be Announced (Taped)	That '70s Show	Describe Housewives "Come In, Stranger"
12:30	The Wiggles		Jeopardy!	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation - No More Stars	Fox and Friends		Charmed "All Hallows' Eve"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation - No More Stars
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie *** "My Best Friend Wedding" (1997, Love) Julia Roberts. A food critic seeks to sabotage her buddy's nuptials.	Today Judge Judy	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation - No More Stars	Fox and Friends	SportsCenter	Strong Medicine "Pre-Existing Conditions"	Pacific Report
14:00	Blue's Clues		Legend of Tarzan "Protector"	Life Show With David Letterman	American Morning	College Basketball North Carolina at Duke	Any Day Now "Heads or Tails"	Life Show With David Letterman
15:00	Funtastic Home Videos	Movie *** "The Quick and the Dead" (1988, Western) Sharon Stone, Gene Hackman, Russell Crowe.	Headline News	Life Show With David Letterman	OWN Live Today		Third Watch "Kim's Hope Chast"	Life Show With David Letterman
16:00	Yu-Gi-Oh!		Nick News Special Edition	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson		SportsCenter	Law & Order "Vaya Con Dios"	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson
17:00	Doug (E)	Coming Attractions	Headline News	Dennis Miller	FOX News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced (Taped)	The Simpsons	Dennis Miller
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys	Short Movies	Destinations	Countdown With Keith Olbermann	60 Minutes		Everybody Loves Raymond	Countdown With Keith Olbermann
18:00	The Family OddParents	Entertainment Tonight	AFN Evening News	Two and a Half Men	Access Hollywood		The Practice "Burnout"	Headline News
19:00	That's So Raven	Movie *** "Forrest Gump" (1989, Comedy-Drama) Tom Hanks, Robin Wright. A slow-witted Southerner experiences some 30 years of history.	Desperate Housewives "Come In, Stranger"	Headline News	FOX News	PGA Golf AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am - First Round. From the Palace of Auburn Hills in Auburn Hills, Mich. (Live)	Friends	Headline News
20:00	Hi Heaven "The Long Bad Summer" (Part 1 of 2)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation - No More Stars	The Hot List	Studio B With Shepard Smith	ESPNNews	Practicing "The Big Salad"	The Hot List
21:00	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	(K-6) Movie *** "Coyote Ugly" (2000, Drama) Piper Perabo. A struggling songwriter cuts loose in a rowdy New York bar.	Headline News	Good Morning America	Your World With Neil Cavuto		Daily Show-Jon Stewart	Good Morning America
22:00	The Cosby Show		The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	Headline News	Lester Holt Live		Blind Date	
23:00	Home Improvement	Movie *** "Tremors" (1990, Horror) Kevin Bacon, Fred Ward. Finn Carter.	Late Show-Letterman	Play With Me Sesame		SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
23:30	Home Improvement	Movie *** "Tremors" (1990, Horror) Kevin Bacon, Fred Ward. Finn Carter.	Late Show-Letterman	Play With Me Sesame		SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	Play With Me Sesame
00:00	Rocky Power		Headline News	Bar in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News		American Idol	Bar in the Big Blue House
00:30	The Family OddParents		Headline News	Wheel of Fortune	ABC World News Tonight		Wheel of Fortune	Wheel of Fortune
1:00	Rugrats	Movie *** "Demolition Man" (1993) Sylvester Stallone, Robert Downey Jr.	Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
2:00	That's So Raven		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
2:30	All That		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
3:00	Hi Heaven "The Long Bad Summer" (Part 1 of 2)		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
3:30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
4:00	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
4:30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
5:00	Sesame Street (E)		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
5:30	Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
6:00	Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
6:30	Blue's Clues "Cafe Blue" (E)		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
7:00	Dragon Tales (E)		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
7:30	Bob the Builder		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
8:00	The Wiggles		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
8:30	Dora the Explorer		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
9:00	Stanley		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
9:30	Savage-Sesame Cat		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
10:00	Arthur "I'll Be There for You"		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
10:30	Reading Rainbow (E)		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
11:00	Savage-Sesame Cat		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
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15:00	Funtastic Home Videos		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
16:00	Yu-Gi-Oh!		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
17:00	Doug "Doug's in the Middle"		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
18:00	The Family OddParents		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
18:30	Arthur		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
19:00	All Grown Up		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
20:00	Danny Phantom		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
20:30	Drake & Josh "Little Dip"		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
21:00	That's So Raven		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
21:30	Phil of the Future		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
22:00	Radio Free Roscoe		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
22:30	The Cosby Show		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil
23:00	Home Improvement		Headline News	Dr. Phil	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Action	Dr. Phil	Dr. Phil

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FACES



This promotional photo provided by Paramount Network Television shows actress Catherine Bell as Lt. Col. Sarah "Mac" MacKenzie in CBS's military law drama "JAG." The show is trying to tackle topics that have come up during the Iraq war.

'Definitely intense'

'JAG' finds its war stories can hit close to home

BY BRIDGET BYRNE

The Associated Press

SANTA CLARITA, Calif. — The sound of gunfire ricochets inside a minaret as a private in the U.S. Marine Corps shoots a wounded, and apparently unarmed, Iraqi. Members of the camera crew remove their earplugs and discuss whether the scene went OK or needs a retake. It doesn't.

"Death at the Mosque" shooting in this suburb north of Los Angeles, will air as an episode of "JAG," the military law series.

This season, war has been featured prominently in several episodes reflecting real events in Iraq.

"How we approach the stories I think probably changes from month to month, not unlike the mood of the country — first some enthusiasm, then some doubt, some reservations," producer Peter Dunne says. "Our stories concern themselves more with the humane issues, the peace issues rather than the war issues ... because it's going to be the humanity that solves this war, not the weapons."

Local terrain in the hills visible from Dunne's Santa Clarita office provides convincing settings for Iraq as well as Afghanistan.

The series has always had cooperation from all branches of the armed services and often films on military bases, including the San Diego Naval Air Station and the Marines' Camp Pendleton nearby.

"You see all the young families there ... and how much we are like them, but are not suffering the same. We all have spouses, parents, children, whom we expect to find in the house at night when we get home, but they don't have that," says Dunne.

Created by Don Bellisario, the series follows the personal and professional trials of the Judge Advocate General Corps, the lawyers who investigate, prosecute and defend cases involving Navy and Marine personnel.

The stars of the legal team are Lt. Col. Sarah "Mac" MacKenzie, played by Catherine Bell, and Cmdr. Harmon

"Harm" Rabb, played by David James Elliott, who's leaving the series at the end of this season.

Chris Beitem, recently of daytime's "As The World Turns," has just signed up as Lt. Gregory Vukovic, a charming but ethically defiant new member of the "JAG" team, who happens to be assigned to the minaret shooting.

Bell, whose toddler daughter is with her as she waits in her trailer for her next scene, mentions working at Pendleton on the day last month when 30 Marines and a Navy sailor were killed in a helicopter crash in Iraq.

"Meeting guys who have lost their friends — or a young woman with a beautiful little 6-month-old baby whose father left for the war when the baby was 3 weeks old — you meet these people and, man, this is definitely intense," Bell says.

"This war, like every war that we have fought, changes law ... We try to examine that and put our JAG officer-heroes in the center of this firestorm of what now works and what doesn't work in the legal system ... Our characters, though they are not fighting the war, are fighting to interpret its effect on this country."

Peter Dunne
producer

known until May whether "JAG" will earn an 11th season, but Dunne feels the odds are with them: "I don't think there will ever be a shortage of good drama set in the military — it's one of the four main franchises — along with police work, law and medicine — that have held up, because they all provide the element of life or death."

And explaining the focus on reality-based war stories, Dunne says: "This war, like every war that we have fought, changes law ... We try to examine that and put our JAG officer-heroes in the center of this firestorm of what now works and what doesn't work in the legal system ... Our characters, though they are not fighting the war, are fighting to interpret its effect on this country."

McConaughey to start Daytona 500

Well, all right, all right, all right. Matthew McConaughey has been selected as the Grand Marshal for the 47th annual Daytona 500.

The 35-year-old actor will give the command, "Drivers, start your engines," at the Feb. 20 race in Florida, NASCAR announced Monday.

"I'm honored and excited to be the Grand Marshal of this year's race," McConaughey said in a statement. "There is nothing more American than NASCAR and the Daytona 500."

Ashton Kutcher will be the honorary starter of this year's race.



McConaughey

Grammy producer honored with star

Producer Pierre Cossette, who initiated the live Grammy Awards television broadcast in 1971, received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Cossette, who will mark his 35th anniversary as Grammy producer with Sunday's ceremony, received the 2,279th star on the walk, in front of the Pantages Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard.

Comedians Bob Newhart and Don Rickles took part in the ceremony Monday conducted by Johnny Grant, chairman of the Walk of Fame Committee and Hollywood's honorary mayor.

Director resigns post at film academy

Oscar-winning director Pedro Almodovar has resigned his post at Spain's Film Academy because of a disagreement over the voting system used to select winners of the Goya Awards, his production company said.

Almodovar, who was a member of the academy for 17 years, quit in December because the number of voters for the Goya, Spain's version of the Oscars, had been reduced and there was a lack of information about the people casting ballots for the prize, the director's production company, El Deseo, said Monday.



Almodovar

'Sex' star Davis becomes 'soccer mom'

Kristin Davis is moving from the "City" to the suburbs for her next TV project.

Davis, an Emmy nominee last year for the final season of HBO's "Sex and the City," has taken a lead role in ABC's pilot "Soccer Moms." Her signing removes the casting contingency from the project, the showbiz trade papers report.

"Soccer Moms" is a light drama that revolves around two suburban women who moonlight as private investigators. Don Todd ("Life as We Know It") and Marla Ginsburg ("Highlander") are writing the pilot and executive producing with Jeff Kline ("That Was The Man").

Cheadle heads to Sudan for 'Nightline'

Don Cheadle, the Oscar-nominated star of "Hotel Rwanda," took on the role of a reporter for a "Nightline" segment on the ethnic conflict in the Sudan.

Cheadle reported from the African nation on Wednesday's edition of the late-night ABC news program as a "special correspondent," the network says. The actor and "Nightline" producer Rick Wilkinson accompanied several members of Congress on a recent fact-finding mission to examine what many observers are calling genocide in the country's Darfur region.

Rebel groups in the region accuse the Sudanese government of funding Arab militias called Janjaweed to wipe out non-Arab enclaves, a charge the government denies.

'Dreams,' 'Contender' swap spots on NBC

NBC has moved its boxing reality series "The Contender" yet again, setting the show on Sunday and moving "American Dreams" out of its three-year home and onto Wednesday nights for the remainder of its season.

The moves are among several changes the network is making to its midseason schedule, including a special preview and new premiere date for the comedy "The Office" and an earlier start for the fourth "Law & Order" series.

Stories and photos from wire services

OPINION

Troop increase justified by new obligations

The Washington Post

A day after President Bush bluntly ruled out an "artificial timetable" for withdrawal from Iraq, the Pentagon delivered a sobering follow-up: While the 15,000 additional U.S. troops deployed for [the Jan. 30] elections will be withdrawn, the 17 remaining brigades — 135,000 soldiers and Marines — will be needed in Iraq at least through the end of this year.

That estimate is understandable, given the continuing strength of the Sunni insurgency and the troubles in preparing Iraqi security forces. In fact, even the post-election reduction seems questionable, given that vital infrastructure and roads in Iraq, and even the highway from downtown Baghdad to the airport, have not been secured. Yet the alarming truth may be that the administration has little choice but to draw down troops: As it is, the present deployment in Iraq is on the verge of breaking an undermanned Army.

[Last week] senior military officials gave the latest in a series of alarming reports about the strain

on the Army and Marines from two years of fighting simultaneous wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Carrying out a fourth rotation of troops into Iraq in the fall will be "painful," Gen. Richard A. Cody testified before the House Armed Services Committee; he suggested that it might necessitate breaking a rule that limits reservists to 24 months of active duty. Congressional pressure obliged the Pentagon to quickly prick that trial balloon, but the troops will have to come from somewhere.

By the time the fall mobilization takes place, all 15 of the National Guard's most deployable brigades will have been mobilized, and some regular units may have to return next year for a third combat tour. Some are risking their lives involuntarily: Stop-loss orders for soldiers completing their service and the recall of some already discharged have created a backdoor draft.

Predictably, it is getting harder and harder for the Army and Marines to recruit young men and women willing to bear such hardships. The Marines missed their recruiting goal last month for the first time in a decade, and all of the

reserve corps except the Marines missed their recruiting goals in the first quarter of this fiscal year. The National Guard signed up barely half of the recruits it aimed for in January; its commander warned in December that unless it received \$20 billion in new weapons and equipment, the force "will be broken."

For several years, policy experts and congressmen from both parties have been warning Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld that the size of the Army must be increased to meet the challenges of the war against terrorism, notwithstanding his pet doctrine — developed before Sept. 11, 2001 — of a smaller, lighter force. Now, thanks to Mr. Rumsfeld's stubborn refusal to listen, a crisis is at hand.

The Pentagon may finally be conceding some ground: Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz told the Senate Armed Services Committee [last week] that a temporary increase of 30,000 troops in the Army would be made permanent in the 2007 budget and that a quadrennial review of Pentagon doctrine getting under way would reconsider the size of the force. That's a step in the right direction.



but more urgent action is needed.

Last month, a bipartisan group of former senior defense and security officials and policy experts delivered a letter to Congress recommending an increase in the active-duty Army and Marines to

gether of at least 25,000 troops each year over the next several years. Since such a buildup does not appear in the administration's budget for next year, Congress should require it — before the damage to the military grows worse.

U.S. must respect S. Korea's precarious position

BY BENJAMIN S. KNIGHT
The Providence (R.I.) Journal

Not more than three years ago, restaurants in Seoul were refusing to serve Americans, “%& America!” became a hit single, and the national teachers union was disseminating lesson plans teaching anti-Americanism to schoolchildren.

Today, things have toned down considerably, and yet anti-American protests remain a common sight. This is our most important partner in resolving the issue of North Korean President Kim Jong Il's nuclear program, and as the third-largest foreign military presence in Iraq, an essential ally in the war against terror.

This is disconcerting, not just because the United States needs every friend it has, but because as annoyance turns to anger, South Korea will naturally start looking elsewhere for a powerful friend to help ensure its security. China would love to readopt the paternalistic relationship it has traditionally had with a unified Korea, and today there are signs of that relationship's re-emerging.

Now that China has replaced the United States as the chief consumer of South Korean goods, more and more South Koreans are learning Mandarin, as opposed to English. According to the U.S. Institute of International Education, the number of South Koreans studying in the United States grew 11 percent in 2001. But in large part because of the extraordinary difficulty of obtaining a U.S. visa post-Sept. 11, that annual growth has since slowed to 5 percent. Meanwhile, the number of South Koreans studying in China has increased tenfold in the last two years.

International students are the best conduits of American culture and perspective, an important advantage that is slowly being forfeited to China.

Further contributing to a decline in U.S. prestige and influence is the withdrawal of American troops from South Korea to fight in Iraq, a move forcing officials here [in Seoul] to question just how much the United States can be counted on.

On the diplomatic front, China's pressur-

ing of North Korea to return to six-party talks on its nuclear program has, in South Korea's eyes, contributed far more toward resolving the nuclear standoff than anything that the United States has done as of late, especially in view of President Bush's penchant for "talking tough." Many in South Korea consider Bush to be a greater threat to stability than Kim Jong Il.

Given how poor America's image is here, and the high frustration that many South Koreans feel toward the United States, it is easy to forget that the common interests between the two countries are many. The following factors should continue to unite South Korea and the United States for the foreseeable future:

■ South Korea's historic successes in preserving its sovereignty (despite its small size) came as a result of carefully balancing one great power against another. South Korea benefits only if the United States and China compete over its affections.

■ The United States has never made any territorial claims on Korea. However, with the declaration by Chinese historians that the ancient Korean kingdom of Koguryo was, in fact, part of China, Beijing has effectively done just that.

■ The United States would greatly benefit should a united, democratic Korean state emerge, whereas China would lose a useful buffer state and ally, and thus is unlikely to earnestly support reunification.

For the time being, the chances of South Korea's embracing China in lieu of the United States are slim. Nevertheless, it is a relationship that should not be taken for granted. If the United States is to ensure that South Korea remains a dependable ally in the years to come, it must begin to re-evaluate how it deals with both North and South

A good start is doing a better job of acknowledging our ally's contributions. It makes for bad press when the president forgets to mention South Korea's contribution of 3,600 troops to Iraq.

Another good idea would be if the United States consulted more with South Korea about North Korea. As much as South Korea's "Sunshine Policy" and Bush's "Axis of Evil" might be at odds with each other, remember that South Korea not only has the most to lose in another Korean war, but also has more experience in dealing with North Korea as a potential threat. The United States should do more to cultivate a public

image of standing with our ally in rapprochement with the North, as opposed to wringing South Korea's arm to deploy troops to Iraq.

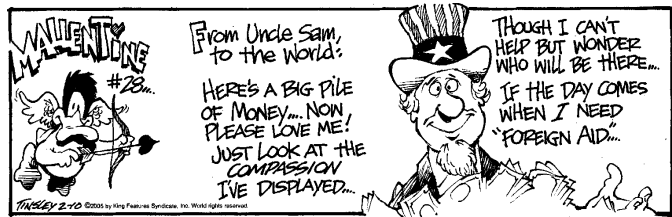
Finally, in addition to decreasing the U.S. military presence slowly and incrementally, it wouldn't hurt if commanders did more to rein in wild U.S. troops. Pictures of American soldiers with South Korean prostitutes abound, and elicit a very strong reaction in this deeply Confucian country. State Department talk of "lessening America's footprint" in South Korea indicates that it is only too aware of the problem.

While South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun's administration is keenly aware of the dangers of falling out with the United States, America's challenge now must be to instill in the current generation the same respect for the United States, and U.S.-South Korean relations, held by their elders. Given how much South Korean and American interests coincide, to do so should not be diffi-

However, as more and more youths reach voting age, irritated at what they perceive to be a unilateral and unhelpful ally, the clock is most certainly ticking.

Benjamin S. Knight teaches in South Korea under a grant from the Fulbright Foundation.

Mallard Fillmore



BY BRUCE TINSLEY

Horoscope

The Pisces moon is a balm on the forehead of this fast-paced week. So much new energy has come into what we need time to assimilate. Pisces lunar energy is introspective and wise, reminding us that we needn't get snagged in the minutiae or seduced by the details. All we are learning will fall into its proper place.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(February 10). A greater sense of belonging and connection to your fellow man is yours this year. March brings exciting new developments in your social life. Changing something about your situation in May leads to interesting friends, and through one of them, you may even find romance, right when you thought you weren't in the mood.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

Communication and community are key. Why not plan a party for the folks on your block? Get to know people you casually wave hello to on the street. Use this opportunity to bury the hatchet with a neighbor.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

If you've lately found yourself being stonewalled when it comes to signing a document of paramount importance to your career, the situation should lighten up considerably. Power players are in a more agreeable mood.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Watch for an invitation to travel with friends. This offer could come through your schoolmates or a social group — even your church! It's an excellent opportunity for spiritual growth. Expand your world and your mind.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

A corporate entity with money to burn is eager to finance your latest project! Watch for subtle opportunities. Be sure to buy a lottery ticket. Call your business partners, and stir the pot a bit. See what bubbles up.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

Reconnect with friends if you've been lying low recently due to your incredibly hectic and exciting life. Invitations and announcements are met with

joy all around. Don't be surprised if you're flooded with visitors bearing gifts of love.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Presentations and meetings of all sorts go smoothly. You come out looking knowledgeable and approachable, picking up new clients or even a date! Regarding your mail: Toss it, file it, or deal with it, but don't let it pile up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Lucky you! Many opportunities for fun and love present themselves. Say yes to any sort of group outing, and you're sure to have a creatively inspiring and enlightening time. What better way to beat the winter doldrums?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Now that the holidays are behind you, family tensions dissipate. Yes, you may actually find yourself once again liking those crazy people to whom you're related. Make time for laziness around the house together.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Is there a concert, movie or museum exhibit you've been dying to see? Unchain yourself from your desk for a day! Get out there into the thick of things, and commune with your fellow humans. Work can wait, life can't.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

An unexpected phone call could bring outstanding financial news! Knowing how hard you drive yourself, this is most likely work-related, though it could also be through an investment or a friend. Take a bow.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Everything just seems a little bit easier. People are more accessible. The wheels of innovation and productivity spin a little faster. People just seem to get you. You're in the zone. Enjoy this time with someone special.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

You're in the midst of a huge spiritual growth spurt, becoming the person you've always wanted to be. Your values are changing, and so is your social circle. Acquaintances come and go; true friends are forever.

Holiday Mathis



enlightening time. What better way to beat the winter doldrums?

Calvin and Hobbes



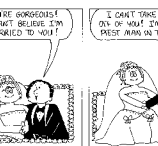
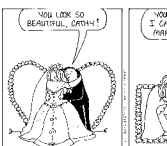
Jump Start



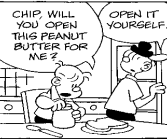
Zits



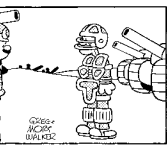
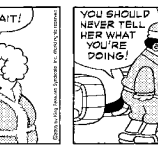
Cathy



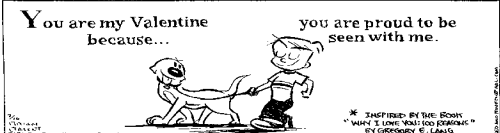
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



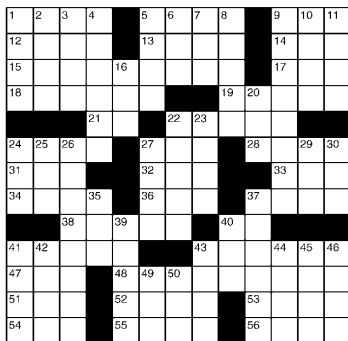
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



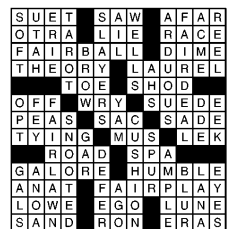
Across

- 1 Weaving apparatus
5 Infatuated
9 Milne's "Mr. — Passes By"
12 Lotion additive
13 Rhone city
14 Cold War faction (Abbr.)
15 Runt
17 Apiece
18 Play — (to pretend)
19 Rubber source
21 Poet cummings
22 Colander
24 Uppercase
27 Likely
28 Tackles' teammates
31 ID datum
32 Milner Sebastian
33 Father's Day gift
34 Maximally
36 PTA member
37 Cellar, in want ads (Abbr.)
38 Alternate
40 Continent (Abbr.)
41 Shopping center
43 Dash
47 Have something wrong
48 Baseball : Little League :: football : —
51 Western star
52 1998 Andrea Bocelli album
53 Neutral shade

Down

- 14 Reindeer herder, maybe
27 Hodgepodge
3 "My bad"
4 Unkempt situations
5 Morose
6 Favorable vote
7 Asian antelope
8 Bracelet setting
9 Camping gear
10 "Not if — you first!"
11 "You Bet Your Life" emcee
16 What, in Osaka
20 Hall or farewell
22 Thread holder
23 Thing
24 Heathcliff, e.g.
25 Past
26 Pre-game morale booster
27 Pinnacle
28 Poorly lit
30 Collection
35 — who? (Sl.)
37 Keg
39 Relating to the pope
40 Health farm
41 Treaty
42 Fabulist
43 Bat a gnat
44 Erstwhile Peruvian
45 Dweeb
46 Authentic
49 Galena, e.g.
50 Brooch

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-10

CRYPTOQUIP

J I U L F U G B F N L W T Z
N U G N Z T G F G S X U I Z I F X X F G S
B J G Z X M J X R W V V Z R " S U G Z
M F L E L E Z M F G R U M . "

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A SCRAWNY PUPPY IS BORN IN A STEELWORKS, I RECKON HE MUST BE RUNT-OF-THE-MILL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals S

Other woman should know truth

Dear Abby: My boyfriend of 2½ years, "Neil," broke up with me last August. At the time, I couldn't understand why he suddenly changed so drastically. Early in our relationship he had been accepting of my two children, but toward the end he became distant and cold to them. Then he told me he didn't want to raise another man's children and wasn't interested in being a mentor to a teenage boy.

Neils was also angry that I refused to end my relationship with my best friend, who happens to be a gay man. Neil said there is no place in society for gays, and he didn't want a gay person calling his house.

Neil works for a company that he has always had an interest in owning. Last spring, the owner died suddenly and left shares of the business to his widow, "Nancy," and their children. Neil told me he intended to borrow money from his family and buy

out the youngest son's interest—but his family didn't have the money to loan. About a month after that, in the midst of complaining to me about his financial woes, Neil commented, "Maybe I'll get me a rich older woman to take care of me... someone like Nancy."

Over the next few months, I saw him less and less.

Little did I know Neil had already manipulated a relationship with her.

Abby, Nancy is a very nice, classy person. I like the woman. I went to her home for her husband's wake. Should I tell Nancy what Neil is up to, that he's a conning loser? I'm afraid if I do, she won't believe me. Neil can be very sweet when he wants to be, and I'm sure she hasn't glimpsed his hateful, controlling side. His only real love is money and power.

My motive is not spite. I don't want Neil back. I have a new boyfriend who is everything Neil

could never be. I just feel Nancy should know what's ahead. She has a gay teenage son. I'm sure when Neil gets what he wants, that boy's life will be hell.

So, you tell me: Should I talk to Nancy and risk looking like sour grapes, or let her find out what a lowlife, gold-digging scumbag Neil is for herself?

— **Torn in San Diego**

Dear Torn: Ordinarily, I would tell you to stay out of it. However, because of Nancy's son, I'm reversing myself.

Make a date with Nancy (if she'll see you), and without calling names, tell her about Neil's longtime interest in buying into her business, his cash-flow problem and his homophobia. If she has a legal adviser, I'm sure that person will support her the advisability of a prenuptial agreement should she decide to remarry. And your conscience will be clear.

Letters for this column—with your name and phone number—should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the internet at: <http://www.ueppress.com/dearabby>

Dear Abby



Boyfriend needs to know priorities

Dear Annie: I faithfully read your column every day, and I need your help. I have been dating a wonderful guy for about a year and a half. "George" and I talked about getting married and having a family. Everything was terrific until a few months ago.

George informed me that a female friend of his needed a place to stay, and he offered to let her move in with him. He admitted that he once had dated this girl, and she still has feelings for him. This girl has a reputation for being very sleazy and often plays the helpless victim in order to attract people.

I told George I was NOT OK with her living with him, and we left it at that. Two days ago, I found she has moved into his house.

George claims nothing has or will happen, that they're just friends and that I'm overreacting. I am sick to my stomach and feel betrayed that someone I

Annie's Mailbox



trust and love so much is ready to live with a loose girl like that. To make matters worse, George always mentions how great this girl gets along with his mother. I feel like the other woman here. I don't want to end this relationship, but I don't see how I can continue seeing this man.

— **The Real Other Woman**

Dear Other Woman: It's time to clear things up with George. A man who is truly committed to you does not offer to share his living space with an ex-girlfriend, especially after you've asked him not to. It shows a disregard for your feelings and a willingness to be tempted.

Tell George if he needs a place to live, he should help her find accommodations somewhere else, but if he insists on putting her needs above yours, he is not the man for you.

Dear Annie: I am 14 years

old, and I have a big problem. My mother is a serious alcoholic. I've talked to my father about it, and we have tried interventions with extended family and friends, but she will not quit.

Mom is unemployed, and I think she has an emotional disorder, because she has no interests and spends her time walking our dog all day and complaining about it. I believe this is rubbing off on me, as I am prone to moodiness.

I need your help.

— **No Name, No State**

Dear No Name: Until your mother is ready to make changes, your efforts may not work. You need to concentrate on yourself right now. Please look into *Alateen*, an organization for teenage relatives and friends of alcoholics. The Web site is alateen.org, or you can call 1-888-444-ALAN (1-888-425-2666).

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YUMMG

TAYFF

TOOOLE

TORTOG

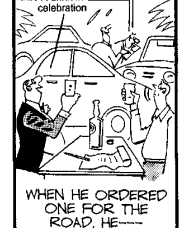
©2005 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

www.jumble.com

Print answer here:

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron

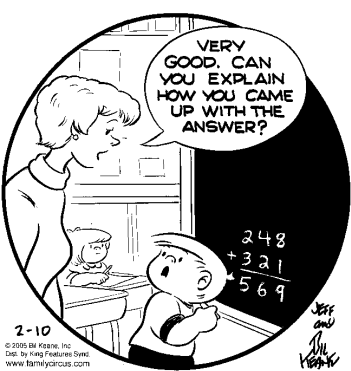


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's: Jumbles: SNARL BOWER LAXITY EXOTIC Answer: What an expensive meal can cost — A LOT OF CALORIES

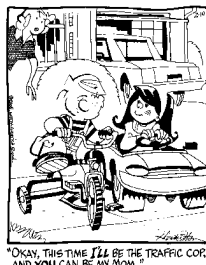
Family Circus



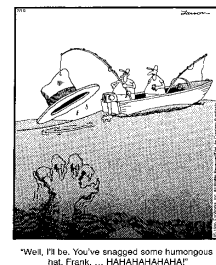
"No, I think it was just Divine intervention."



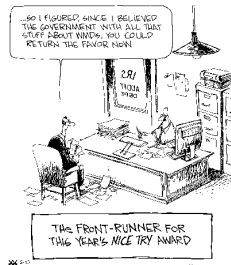
Domis the Menace



The Far Side



Non Sequitur



THE FRONT-RUNNER FOR THIS YEAR'S NICE TRY AWARD

SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

THURSDAY
AFL Sports 9 p.m. Soap

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.-Soccer: USA men at Trinidad and Tobago, World Cup qualifier (did).

AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.-College basketball: North Carolina at Duke (dtd).
AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.-NBA: Charlotte at Indiana (dtd).

Friday

AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.-College basketball: Tennessee women at Louisiana St.
AFN-Sports and Radio, 2 a.m.-NBA: L.A. Lak-

Turin's turn



Turin's Mole Antonelliana dome stands out on the Turin, Italy skyline. One year before the 2006 Turin Olympics, worries about the city's readiness to host the Games have subsided.

One year before Olympics, host city is right on track

BY ANDREW DAMPF
The Associated Press

Figure skaters glide across the freshly laid ice at the renovated Palavela arena. Short-track speedskating is a big hit with the locals. Ski and bobsled races come off without a hitch in the surrounding Alps.

One year before the 2006 Winter Olympics, Turin and the Piedmont region of northwestern Italy are getting a taste of the real thing. So far, so good.

Despite continuing budget, sponsorship and housing problems, a series of successful test events has eased concerns over the state of preparations for the Feb. 10-26, 2006, showcase — the first Winter Games in Italy since Cortina d'Ampezzo in 1956.

"I don't want any triumphalism — I'm aware that we still have a lot of work to do," organizing committee chief Valentino Castellani said. "But we don't have delays or emergencies."

A few months ago, Turin's preparations were being compared to Athens' frenzied, last-minute race to get ready for the 2004 Summer Olympics. Now there's a sense of relative calm among local organizers and International Olympic Committee officials.

"I don't think there is any possible comparison between Athens and Turin," said Gilbert Felli, the IOC's executive director for the Olympic Games. "The venue for figure skating is ready. The venues for cross-country, ski jumping and all the Alpine skiing are ready, so there is nothing to compare with Athens. They are on track."

Felli spoke after attending last week's opening of the European



Turin 2006 chief organizer Valentino Castellani, left, and Turin 2006 supervisor Mario Pescante talk at a news conference.

Figure Skating Championships at the 8,250-seat Palavela, featuring an arching cement roof resembling a billowing sail.

Workers were still painting and tinkering with wires days before the event, but completed the job just in time.

The Palavela also hosted the European short-track speedskating championships last month, drawing full crowds for a sport with little following in Italy.

Cross-country ski races took place Jan. 22-23 in Pragelato; bobsled and skeleton events were held Jan. 29-23, and huge events were scheduled for Feb. 5-6 in Cesana Pariol, but were canceled. In December, the World Cup ski circuit made its annual stop in Sestriere, a resort founded by Fiat's Agnelli family that will be the center for Alpine events during the Olympics.

Ice sports will be in downtown Turin and snow events in Sestriere and surrounding villages,

about 62 miles from the city. There will be three Olympic villages — one in Turin for 2,500 athletes and coaches and two more in the mountains for an equal number of competitors. Housing problems remain in the Alpine zone for fans, media and others.

The organizing committee (TOROC) is encouraging the expansion of existing hotels and asking residents to open up their vacation homes for some of the 1.5 million spectators expected during the games.

There also are tentative plans to house some of TOROC's work force in temporary housing.

"We've done a lot of work. (Accommodation) was a very delicate, difficult matter. In our candidacy, it was one of our weakest points," Castellani said.

In November, Castellani — a former left-leaning mayor of Turin — threatened to resign as local Olympics chief in the face of mounting criticism from Italy's right-leaning government and a budget shortfall of \$235 million.

In the end, Castellani stayed on, although he must now work with a government-appointed supervisor, Mario Pescante, a sports and cultural undersecretary who is also an IOC member.

It's been unclear how the two men will share responsibility, but they've avoided any conflict so far.

"My role is president of the organizing committee. The role of Mario Pescante, alongside me on behalf of the government, is to be a special sort of go-between," Castellani said.

"I'm here morning until night, he's here part-time," Castellani said in an interview at TOROC's bustling headquarters in a northern Turin neighborhood.

The budget gap, now reduced to \$196 million, is due mainly to a

lack of support from state-owned companies. But TOROC and the government say the funds should be secured soon.

TOROC's operating budget is around \$1.5 billion. That doesn't count funds spent by the government on infrastructure projects.

"For someone's personal budget, \$196 million is a stratospheric figure, but it's only [a fraction] of the entire games' cost," Castellani said.

IOC President Jacques Rogge met with Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi in November in Rome to press for government assistance in financing and promoting the Games.

"At the end of the day, I'm sure the Italian government will do the necessary thing," Felli said.

For decades, Turin was a city dominated by Fiat, with migrant workers from the south filling the automaker's factories. Now, with Fiat fallen on hard times, the population is dwindling and the games are being used to revitalize depressed areas.

In fact, Italy's former industrial capital is being transformed like no other Winter Games host city. The city currently resembles a giant construction site, with cranes dotting the skyline.

A new subway system, high-speed rail links to Paris and Milan and a new central train station are just some of the major works in progress.

Castellani said his city is using Barcelona — the Spanish site of the 1992 Summer Games that turned itself into one of Europe's cultural capitals — as its model.

"We studied Barcelona very closely. The Olympics enabled Barcelona to rediscover its waterfront. I think the Olympics will enable Turin to rediscover the Alps," Castellani said with a nod to the

distant snowcapped mountains visible from his top-floor office.

"Being the city of the Winter Olympics, we won't be just the city of Fiat and the city of factories anymore, but the city of the Alps."

But can Turin also be a city of sports?

"We don't have any sporting culture, at least not for these sports. People don't even go to the stadium to watch soccer here," said Antonio Catabano, a 31-year-old resident of Venaria Reale just outside Turin.

Juventus, one of Europe's most famous soccer clubs, plays most of its home matches inside a half-filled stadium.

"I think the Olympics will be different, it's a one-time opportunity and I think people will make sacrifices," Catabano said as he left an Olympic exhibition set up in one of Turin's main squares, alongside a temporary ice skating rink.

Booed by large crowds at the speedskating and figure skating events, Castellani is confident the fans will come out a year from now.

"We've already sold more than half of the tickets," he said. "The Olympic Games have a special attraction and the Italian team is strong at winter sports."

But Castellani wants to do more than just put on a sporting event — he wants to offer the Olympics a slice of Italian style, culture and cuisine.

"I think that is what our country is loved for," he said. "I hope that the spectators immerse themselves in our offering of culture, shopping, music and museums, good food and fine wines."

"I realize that the core business of the Olympics are the races. But for the spectators, the races are just one part of it all."

AP Sports Writer Stephen Willan in London contributed to this report.

HOME TEAM

A WEEKLY LOOK AT LOCAL SPORTS

Grace under pressure

Exhibitions help Naples' Monaco in pursuit of another title

BY RUSTY BRYAN

Stars and Stripes

Mike Monaco can feel the pressure building. As a defending European wrestling champion, the 140-pounder from Naples High School in Italy knows that winning a crown will be tougher the second time around.

The first step to that crown is at this week's sectionals at Aviano, followed by the European championships Feb. 18-19 in Wiesbaden.

"There's a lot more pressure on me as a defending champion," Monaco said by telephone on Monday as he tuned up for Saturday's sectional qualifying tournament.

"I have to prove I was worthy of winning a European title."

Monaco, who was the best in Europe last year at 130, has a simple plan to handle the pressure: become a better wrestler.

To that end, he's been wrestling post-match exhibitions this season against Vicenza's Gary King, who was fifth in Europe last season with a 21-2 record at 140 pounds.

"This year, we've stopped avoiding competition," Monaco said.

"We're trying to improve by wrestling the toughest matches we can."

In Italy, that means Monaco vs. King.

"They've wrestled exhibition matches after our meets this season just to make themselves better wrestlers for Europeans," Naples coach Jim Hall said.

King is wrestling at 145 this season, but the weight difference doesn't factor into the equation.

"The two kids have watched each other a lot," Hall said.

"Both are good technical wrestlers. They've wrestled three times this season. Mike won the first 8-0 and lost the second 8-7. Last week, Mike won 2-1 in double-overtime."

Monaco said he welcomed the bouts, even though many times he already had wrestled four matches during the meet. The post-match bouts are a break from wrestling the same opponents week after week, he said.

And he said the sharpness gained during the meet will serve him well at Europeans, where he's likely to encounter an old foe, former European champ Devon Gardner of Bitburg.

Monaco wrestled Gardner for the first time and defeated him 6-4 in last year's title match, denying Gardner a second straight title.



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Naples' Michael Monaco, bottom, tries to get out from under Bitburg's Devon Gardner during the 130-pound finals of the DODDS European Wrestling Championships on Feb. 14, 2004, in Wiesbaden, Germany. Monaco, who won the title, is looking for another crown, this time at 140 pounds.

"He's very technical," Monaco said. "He has one of the best shoots [for takedowns] in Europe. He used it on me in the final."

Monaco and Gardner are unbeaten so far this season, but Gardner will not be Monaco's only challenger at 140. Ramstein's Jose Figueroa, who came a point shy of denying Patch ace Josh Anderson his fourth straight European title last year, is at 140 this season, as is Heidelberg's Andrew Hoffman.

Whomever he faces, Monaco—who began working out with the Naples varsity as a seventh-grader—plans to wrestle his match.

"I like to counter," he said, "but sometimes I choose to take the initiative. I like to score early."

Early scoring is Monaco's greatest strength as a wrestler, Hall said.

"He's very tough to get off his feet," Hall said.

"He's tough to get on the mat,

and if you do get him there, he won't be there very long. He'll feel where you are and counter."

Pressure aside, Monaco is eager to return to Europeans, where he holds plaques for a sixth-place finish as a freshman and a third-place outcome as a sophomore. And he welcomes the chance to collect a second championship medal.

"I'm looking forward to it," he said.

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: bryan@mail.estrimes.osd.mil

This week's schedule

Boys and girls at same sites unless otherwise indicated
Friday

Division I—Heidelberg at Kaiserslautern International School of Brussels at Würzburg; Lakenheath at Wiesbaden.

Division II—Mannheim at Hanau.

Division III—Alconbury at Brussels; London Central at Merwitt Hill; Baumholder at Bamberg; Giessen at Heidelberg; Livorno at Sigonella; American Overseas School of Rome at Milan; Vicenza at Marignano.

Interdivisional—Ramstein at Bitburg; Ansbach at Black Forest Academy; Patch and Viseck vs. Aviano and Naples at Aviano.

Saturday

Division I—International School of Brussels at Würzburg; Lakenheath at Kaiserslautern.

Division II—SHAPE at AFNORTH.

Division III—Alconbury at Brussels; London Central at Merwitt Hill; Baumholder at Bamberg; Giessen at Heidelberg; Livorno at Sigonella; American Overseas School of Rome at Milan; Vicenza at Marignano.

Interdivisional—Ramstein at Mannheim; Ansbach at Black Forest Academy; Patch and Viseck vs. Aviano and Naples at Aviano.

Wrestling

Saturday's regional qualifying meets
At Aviano: Ansbach, Naples, Sigonella, Vicenza, Würzburg.

At Giessen: Bamberg, Hanau, Heidelberg, Hohentfels, Inzville, Viseck, Wiesbaden.

At Lakenheath: Alconbury, The American School in London, Brussels, Iceland, London Central, Merwitt Hill, SHAPE.

At Ramstein: AFNORTH, Ankara, Baumholder, Bitburg, Kaiserslautern, Patch.

Game of the week

What: Mannheim boys at Hanau basketball
When: 7:30 p.m. Friday
Where: Cardwell gym, Hanau

What's at stake: Division II lead
Because of a scheduling quirk, this game is a one-shot crapshoot for the marbles in Division II. The winner of this game is the likely Division II champion and the D-II champion is the likely No. 1 seed for the European tournament. Mannheim on Feb. 23, 2005, and in a Division II field that will add the Italy duo of Aviano and Naples to the European tourney, being top seed becomes a very big deal.

"Before, when we played twice a year, you could have a bad game and still be able to come back," Mannheim coach John Crockett said Tuesday.

This year, we only have one chance to play each other."

Both teams have the horses to make the most of the one-time offer. Crockett said the most of the one-time offer, Crockett said about the matchup of two teams with 5-0-1 records matched. Hanau is "it should be a good game," he said.

He's a very good player, and he's very well-coached. They have two good players, Anthony Marshall and Malcolm Lane) and have a good man inside in Marcus Fontaine. We're looking for a pick in 2004 for the D-II championships."

"Right now, it's all about the tightness of the contest." Hanau coach Jim Hall said.

"We're really, really, these are the two toughest teams in the league," he said Tuesday. "We're very even. We've won twice, but we've lost twice. When it comes down to the end, we've done what we needed to do to win."

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Carlos Zapata

Boys basketball
Bamberg

Last week: Zapata, a 6-foot-2 junior forward, helped the Barons stay unbeaten in Division III-South with 34 points Friday and 29 points on Saturday in road victories over Giessen.

"He's a great guy," said Bamberg coach Chuck Jordan of Zapata. "He's improved a lot this season."

Jordan said that Zapata, who was averaging 14.5 points per game going into the series at Giessen, transferred in at the end of last season. In his first season on the Barons varsity, Zapata has combined with veteran Miguel Lozada to help Bamberg to a 4-0 league record despite the team's overall youth.

"We try to get the ball to Zapata or Lozada," Jordan said, "depending on who's going well."

The Barons have a showdown this weekend against visiting Baumholder, before big games against Ansbach and Bamberg next week.

Whatever happens there, Jordan's sure Zapata will enjoy himself.

"He likes to play," Jordan said. "He's having fun."

Selected by Stars and Stripes staff.



Sam Crowder

Girls basketball
Roma

Last week: Crowder, a 5-foot-8 senior guard, had game-highs with nine rebounds on Friday and 20 points on Saturday as the Lady Admirals scored two blowout road victories in England.

Roma defeated Alconbury 45-15 on Friday and London Central 57-25 on Saturday to inject themselves into the Division III title hunt.

Crowder—who made the All-Europe second team last season thanks to her 22-point average—is averaging just eight points a game this year.

"Her assists, of course, have gone through the roof," coach Greg Jacobs said. "Sam has come to the point where she goes about telling others take over the scorebook."

"Last year, she had to do it all. This year, we have other players who can score (Kerry Yatski, Cindy Brice, Jessica Brewer)."

Jacobs added that Crowder relishes her new role.

"Being unselfish is not a problem for her," Jacobs said. "She never wanted to do all our scoring."

Selected by Stars and Stripes staff.

TV workers strike halts men's ski race

By ANDREW DAMPE
The Associated Press

BORMIO, Italy — A race at the Alpine World Championships was postponed Wednesday when Italian TV workers went on strike, a dispute that comes with the Winter Olympics a year away and the IOC to meet this week in Turin.

"We could have certainly done without this," Italian Olympic Committee President Gianni Petrucci said.

Thousands were on their way to the course for the men's giant slalom when word of the strike came an hour before the start.

The race at the worlds — skiing's biggest event after the Olympics — was rescheduled for Thursday, originally an off day for competition. The championships are to end Sunday, and three other races are scheduled for Friday and Saturday.

Turin Games organizers generally have received good marks from the International Olympic Committee after a series of successful test events, but budget shortfalls and this strike could heighten concerns.

"I'm disappointed, angry and frustrated," International Ski Federation general secretary Sarah Lewis said. "Everything was ready to go — 156 athletes and fan clubs had traveled especially

to be there. The giant slalom is always one of the most exciting events."

Strikes are common in Italy, although they usually are confined to domestic issues and events. This strike was over contract issues and organized by a small Milan union of RAI state TV workers. Some fans in the finish area attacked an RAI truck when they learned about the strike, forcing police to step in.

"As an IOC member I told the Turin organizing committee two years ago that they should try to have a law against strikes during the Olympics, and so far nothing I know has happened," FIS President Gian Franco Kasper.

The Turin organizing committee responded Wednesday by saying it intends to create an arrangement with workers' organizations that stipulates a "trade union truce" during the games.

Kasper called the protest a "wildcat strike." He said that under Italian law strikes by public services must be announced 24 hours beforehand and this was therefore an "illegal" strike.

U.S. head coach Phil McNichol said the biggest loss today is ski racing.

"Racing is at an all-time low, we're trying to get a stronger foothold in TV, to get the world to hold a world championships race because of television," McNichol said. "It's extremely disappointing."

Ken Read, head of the Canadian team and a former downhill racer, added: "It's despicable. This is no way to gain sympathy for their cause."

While not blamed for the strike, the local organizing committee in Bormio was chastened.

"The organization, shame, embarrassment, shame. These are [our] reactions," the committee said in a statement. "Certain things only happen in Italy, and right now it's a day to forget in Bormio."

Kasper said he was informed of the strike threat Tuesday night but was unable to assemble a makeshift crew of Swiss, German and Austrian TV workers.

He said a FIS TV crew would be in place if the strike continued Thursday, and the race might proceed even without TV.

"We can carry out a competition with no TV," Kasper said.

Read plans to leave to talk about the strike with TV spectators. They already don't have many spectators at our races, especially here."

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee coach Jeff Fisher hired Southern California assistant Norm Chow as the Titans' offensive coordinator Wednesday.

"We know which direction our offense wants to go, and I felt without any question in my mind that he's the right guy to get us there," Fisher said at a news conference.

Fisher replaces Mike Heimerdinger, who was hired as the New York Jets' offensive coordinator last month. This is his first job in pro football after 32 seasons at BYU, North Carolina State and USC, where he helped the Trojans win two straight national titles.

"The timing's right, and the excitement's there," Chow said by telephone.



Romeo Crennel answers questions at a news conference Tuesday when he was introduced as the Browns' first black coach.

Crennel now in charge of rebuilding Browns

By TOM WITHERS
The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — Romeo Crennel walked into the news conference wearing one of his diamond-studded Super Bowl rings and a smile. In one hand, he held seven notecards chronicling 35 years of coaching experience.

He was missing a big parade and party back in Boston, and Crennel couldn't have cared less. There was no place else he wanted to be.

The lifelong assistant was finally a head coach.

"I've got the spotlight, huh," he said.

Crennel's long wait ended Tuesday as New England's former defensive coordinator was introduced as coach of the Cleveland Browns, who just six years after their expansion return are rebuilding once again.

A coaching odyssey that began in 1970 at Western Kentucky and included stops at Texas Tech, Mississippi, Georgia Tech, New York and New England, has brought the 57-year-old coach back to Cleveland, where he was the defensive coordinator in 2000.

"I've been in this league for a while and I've been somewhat successful as a position coach," said Crennel, who won two Super Bowls with Bill Belichick. "Now, taking the reins of a team and trying to run a whole program is going to be special. It's a big challenge, but I think I'm ready."

The Browns, who have gone a

league-worst 30-66 with one playoff appearance since 1999, are counting on Crennel to end six seasons of chaos.

Crennel is the 11th full-time coach in team history and Cleveland's first black coach. He's also the NFL's sixth minority coach, but the only one boasting a Super Bowl ring for each finger of one hand.

Crennel would prefer to be known simply as a coach who wins.

"My skin color is black, but I am a head coach," he said. "I hope that I possess the qualities that are in a head coach with the leadership, organization, and the prioritizing. In many cases I have been the only African-American on a staff or in the neighborhood. The best thing I can do for other minority candidates is be successful and a role model."

Crennel received a five-year, \$11 million contract from the Browns, who are coming off a disastrous 4-12 season that was scuttled by major injuries and highlighted by the resignation of Butch Davis on Nov. 30.

He wants to mold a team in the image of the Patriots, one made up of tough players of high character.

"Now that I'm a head coach, if I can get the Cleveland Browns — the team — to play the way my defenses played with the Patriots, some of them no-name guys, then the Browns will be competitive and a team to be proud of," he said. "Know that it might not happen overnight because it takes time to build a winner."

McNabb was sick on Sunday

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Donovan McNabb was so ill in the fourth quarter of the Super Bowl that a Philadelphia Eagles teammate called one play in the huddle, center Hank Fraley told a TV station.

"He fought to the end. He gave it his all," Fraley said on Comcast SportsNet in a show aired Monday night. "He could hardly call the play — that's how exhausted he was trying to give it his all. If you remember back when we played Jacksonville two years ago and he ended up puking, it was close to that scene. He exhausted everything he had."

Eagles spokesman Derek Boyko said Tuesday that McNabb could have been sicking shy — he fought a cold earlier in the week.

McNabb was feeling sick at times in Sunday's game. He passed for 357 yards and three touchdowns, but he also threw three interceptions.

The quarterback misfired on several passes early, held the ball too long at other times, and made several poor decisions. One of the best scramblers in the NFL, McNabb had zero yards rushing on just one carry and was sacked four times.

He struggled in particular in the fourth quarter, getting picked off twice and looking lost in getting the team moving late.

"He didn't get a play call in one time," Fraley said. "He mumbled (and receiver) Freddie Mitchell yelled out the play we were trying to bring in. He was puking at the same time, trying to hold it in."

Mitchell said on Tuesday that McNabb was having complications and "couldn't get it out so I just had to finish the play up."

"It was my first time being the quarterback in the NFL," Mitchell said on a local television station. "It was hard. He kind of tried to get the hand signals to the team, but I knew when he was thinking. I just finished the play up."

McNabb left Tuesday for Hawaii, where he will start for the AFC in Sunday's Pro Bowl. His agent did not immediately return a phone call Tuesday.

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Sports briefs

Sharapova pulls out of Paris tournament

PARIS — Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova pulled out of the Open Gaz de France on Wednesday because of a respiratory illness.

"I'm very disappointed I won't be playing in Paris this year," Sharapova said in a statement. "I'm not in my best condition and will not be able to perform at my best."

Sharapova was scheduled to play her first

Chow, 58, joined USC in 2001 and was the team's offensive coordinator, tutoring Heisman Trophy winners Carson Palmer and Matt Leinart.

match in Paris on Thursday against Tatiana Golovin of France.

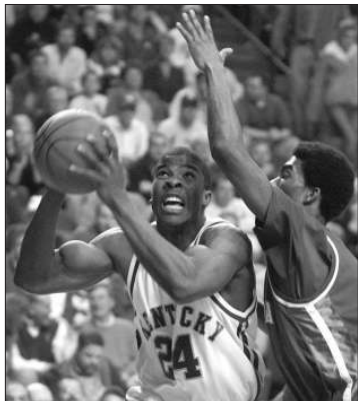
LGU opens play to transsexual golfers

LONDON — Transsexual golfers will be allowed to play in this year's women's British Open in a policy change made by the Ladies Golf Union.

The move, announced Wednesday, comes 11 months after Danish-born Mianne Bagger became the first male-born golfer to play in a professional women's tournament.

The LGU, which governs amateur golf in Britain and also runs the British Ladies Open, followed a similar move made last year by the Ladies European Tour, the governing body of professional women's golf in Europe.

Titans hire USC's Chow as offensive coordinator



Kentucky's Kelenna Azubuike tries to duck under the defense of Florida's Corey Brewer during the first half. Azubuike scored 18 points.

Kentucky maintains edge over Florida

The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — The Kentucky-Florida rivalry has been awfully one-sided lately.

Kelenna Azubuike scored 18 points and the fifth-ranked Wildcats rallied from a nine-point second-half deficit to beat Florida 69-66 on Tuesday night — Kentucky's eighth straight win over the Gators.

"I don't know if you can call it a rivalry," Florida junior Matt Walsh said, "until we win some. I've never beaten Kentucky."

The Wildcats (18-2, 9-0 Southeastern Conference) beat the Gators (14-6, 6-3) for the 10th time in 11 games. Kentucky holds a three-game lead in the SEC East over second-place Florida with seven games remaining.

Kentucky's streak against the Gators has spanned the gamut from the sublime — a 70-55 romp in 2003, when Florida was ranked No. 1 — to the ridiculous — scoring the final 11 points in a three-point win last season.

On Tuesday, it was more of the same. Florida, which routed then-No. 11 Alabama by 31 points on Saturday, looked to be in control against Kentucky as well, leading by 11 in the first half and by nine with 16:57 left.

But Kentucky scored 13 of the next 15 points to go ahead 47-45.

The Wildcats went ahead for good at 53:52 on Azubuike's three-pointer with 9:52 left and held the lead thanks in good measure to the play of Rajon Rondo, their freshman point guard.

The 6-foot-1 Rondo had 14 points, seven rebounds and four assists. He also helped shut down Anthony Roberson, the SEC's second-leading scorer, in the second half, when he had eight mostly meaningless points after scoring 15 in the first half.

Rondo, a 50 percent free-throw shooter, even went 8-for-10 from



the line. Kentucky, which entered the game shooting 65.8 percent from the line, went 18-for-24 (75 percent) against the Gators.

Rondo "is quick enough to make Roberson work harder," Kentucky coach Tubby Smith said. "After halftime, he figured out how to guard him."

Kentucky had only three second-half turnovers after committing eight in the first half.

Kentucky led 64-54 after a three-point play by Azubuike with 3:37 left. Florida came within four points with a minute left and had two chances to pull closer, but Walsh and Roberson each missed three-point attempts.

Chuck Hayes, who had 11 points and nine rebounds, made two free throws for Kentucky with 26 seconds left and Moss went 1-for-2 from the line with 10 seconds left, sealing the Wildcats' eighth straight win since a home loss to Kansas.

No. 18 Pittsburgh 55, St. John's 44: Chevon Troutman had 19 points for the Panthers (16-4, 6-3 Big East), who pulled away after leading 17-15 at halftime.

Darryl Hill had 18 points for St. John's (8-12, 2-8), which upset Pitt 65-62 in New York on Jan. 18. The Red Storm dropped to 0-8 on the road.

Colorado 88, No. 23 Texas 79: Richard Roby scored 22 points and the Buffaloes (12-9, 4-6) withstood a big second-half run to beat Texas for the second time in nine games.

Brad Buckman had 27 points and 21 rebounds for the visiting Longhorns (15-7, 4-5), who have lost four of five and are down to seven scholarship players because of injuries and academics.

Brown rescues No. 1 Illinois, preserving perfect record

BY LARRY LAGE

The Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Shots that normally go in for Illinois were bouncing on and off the rim. Loose balls the team usually corals were getting away. Dee Brown even mishandled a ball out of bounds on a fast break.

The top-ranked Illinois still couldn't be beat.

Brown scored 16 points and turned three straight steals into baskets, including the go-ahead three-point play, and Luther Head had 14 points to keep Illinois undefeated with a 57-51 victory over Michigan on Tuesday night.

"I'm blown away that people say you've got to lose to learn a lesson," Brown said. "I think we learned from Iowa, Indiana and this game."

The Illini (24-0, 10-0 Big Ten) overcame a total collapse on offense — going nearly 12 minutes without a field goal — and an eight-point deficit early in the second half to become the nation's only undefeated team. Previous unbeaten Boston College lost 68-65 at Notre Dame just minutes before Illinois finished off the Wolverines.

James Augustine, who scored 10 points, said it's only going to get more difficult to avoid a setback.

"Everyone is gunning for us," he said. "We're going to see this type of effort every game the rest of the way, but we've got a lot of motivation to keep this thing going."

Dion Harris had 21 points and seven rebounds for Michigan, while Courtney Sims scored 15 points and Chris Hunter had 10. The Wolverines (12-12, 3-7) have lost seven straight, their longest losing streak since the 1999-2000 season.

"We gave it all we had," Harris said. "Unfortunately, down the



Illinois guard Luther Head puts the pressure on Michigan guard Dion Harris in the second half. Head scored 14 points to help Illinois win.

stretch we had some costly turnovers, and we didn't make a lot of free throws."

The Wolverines were 7-for-14 at the line and had eight turnovers in the second half.

Daniel Horton, Michigan's standout point guard, missed his fifth straight game since being indefinitely suspended following a charge of domestic violence. Horton was scheduled for a pretrial hearing Wednesday morning.

Michigan coach Tommy Amaker was not satisfied with keeping it close against Illinois.

"It's still a loss," he said. "We're still disappointed."

Brown took over when Michigan was clinging to a 39-35 lead midway through the second half.

His three steals in just more than a minute led to three baskets, including the three-point play that gave Illinois the lead for good with 7:54 left.

"That was the differ-

ence-maker in the game, no doubt about it," Illinois coach Bruce Weber said.

Illinois, held to its lowest point total this season, proved again it can win without playing its best.

Two weeks ago, the Illini overcame an eight-point deficit in the second half to beat Wisconsin one game after Iowa pushed them to overtime. They scored just 69 in a victory over Indiana on Sunday.

"We've won a couple this year ugly," Brown said. "You just can't beat everyone by 20 or 15." Michigan surprised the Illini by using much of the shot clock on most possessions.

Tommy really pulled out all the stops," Weber said. "They changed their system."

Weber was proud of the way his players did what he wanted them to do in response to Michigan's slowdown tactics.

"They adapt within games. They're coachable within games," Weber said.

Streak: Falls' threes help fell Eagles

STREAK, FROM BACK PAGE

But Thomas escaped the Irish (14-6, 6-4) didn't have another meltdown, making four free throws in the final 1:11 to give Notre Dame a 66-59 lead.

"I just tried to smile and have fun out there," he said.

"After Dudley scored inside with 30 seconds left, the Eagles forced a turnover and had a chance to cut the lead to two points.

But Dudley drew the lane and as he passed to Smith, he ran into Falls and was called for the offensive foul.

Every time Notre Dame needed a big basket, Falls hit a three-pointer. He hit two three's six minutes into the second half to give the Irish an 11-point lead, and when BC cut the lead to 54-41 with 8:25 left he hit another. He did it again when the Eagles cut the lead to three with 6:43 left.

"I was a little that refuse-to-lose mentality tonight," Falls said.

Falls was 7-for-12 on three-pointers, a career-best effort from outside the arc.

Irish coach Mike Brey said he was surprised how open Falls was at times.

"I was a little shocked they left him," he said. "But if they want to let him play horse, that's fine."

Chris Quinn and Dennis Latimore each added 10 points for the Irish.

Dudley scored 13 of his 16 points in the second half for BC and had 11 rebounds.

It was Notre Dame's first win over a Top 10 team since Feb. 9, 2004, an 80-74 victory over No. 5 UConn. But it was their second win over a ranked team in three games as they beat No. 19 Connecticut 78-74 on Jan. 30, and for the second straight home game students flooded the floor to celebrate.

The Eagles were the latest team to arrive at the Joyce Center undefeated and leave with a loss. The most famous Irish win over an unbeaten team occurred in 1974, when UCLA came in 13-0 and on an 88-game winning streak. The Bruins lost when the Irish outscored the Bill Walton-led Bruins 12-0 over the final 3:32 to win 71-70.

The Irish also beat a top-ranked UCLA team that was 14-0 in 1971; beat No. 1 San Francisco (29-0) in 1977; and beat top-ranked DePaul (25-0) in double overtime in 1980.

Skinner said the loss, coming at the start of eight days off, wasn't all bad.

"It definitely comes at a good time," he said. "It gives us a chance to get refocused, sit down and start again."

San Francisco to host All-Star Game in 2007

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig will be in San Francisco on Wednesday to announce that the Giants will host the 2007 All-Star Game.

It was widely reported during the World Series in October that the Giants would get the game, but Selig now will make it official.

This will be the city's first time staging baseball's midsummer classic since 1984, and a great chance to showcase SBC Park, the Giants' beautiful waterfront stadium that opened in 2000. The club has topped 3 million in attendance all five seasons since the ballpark opened — thanks in large part to the popularity of slugger Barry Bonds.

The Giants had no official announcement Tuesday, but have acknowledged in the past they had long been considered a favorite to host the game.

The last time the city had the All-Star Game was July 10, 1984, at Candlestick Park, where the National League won 3-1.

This will be the first time in more than 40 years that the All-Star Game won't alternate between the American and National Leagues. Detroit hosts next summer's game, then Pittsburgh has the 2006 event — meaning the NL will host two straight games.

Martinez reports early to spring training

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — Pedro Martinez started his first season with the New York Mets earlier than expected.

Martinez surprised the team Tuesday by showing up early for spring training, 10 days before the first scheduled workout for pitchers, catchers and players coming off injuries. He he said he would arrive on the voluntary reporting date (Feb. 17), but later decided to make the short trip from his home in Miami.

"I'm just here to work out," Martinez said. "I need to continue working just like I was doing in the Dominican. And there's no better place to do it since I live so close."

The 33-year-old Martinez lifted weights and played long toss, and plans to throw off a mound on Wednesday.

The former Red Sox ace signed a \$53 million, four-year contract with New York in December and wanted to set an example for his new teammates. This offseason, Mets General Manager Omar Minaya also added free-agent center fielder Carlos Beltran and first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz, Martinez's former teammate in Boston.

Schilling could be ready for Opening Day

BOSTON — Curt Schilling may be ready for Opening Day after all.

The Boston Red Sox ace who underwent ankle surgery after the team won the World Series is throwing again, and manager Terry Francona wouldn't be shocked if Schilling starts against the Yankees and their new pitcher star in the season opener April 3 in New York.

"It gives him a target date to shoot for," Francona said Tuesday. "It's the Yankees. It's Randy Johnson. That revs him up even more."

Schilling told The Associated Press on Tuesday that pitching the opener was still his goal.

"I'm feeling very good about things now," he said.

On Dec. 14, he told WEEI-AM radio that his rehabilitation was taking longer than he had expected and said, "As of right now, the



timetable looks something later than Opening Day."

General Manager Theo Epstein received an encouraging update Tuesday from one of the team's trainers.

"The club is very happy with the progress he's made," Epstein said. "It's premature [to say] he'll

be ready by Opening Day, but we like the progress he made from the surgery and his throwing program's going well."

Pitchers and catchers are scheduled to report to Boston's spring training camp in Fort Myers, Fla., on Feb. 17. Schilling, who has spent most of the offseason at his home in Arizona, said he began throwing "a while ago," but emphasized that it's too early for him to make a solid prediction about when he can pitch in the regular season.

Silva, Twins agree to contract

MINNEAPOLIS — Right-hander Carlos Silva and the Minnesota Twins avoided arbitration by agreeing Tuesday to a two-year contract that guarantees him \$5.05 million.

Silva went 14-8 with a 4.21 ERA in 203 innings last year for the three-time AL Central champions. He threw one shutout and allowed 255 hits with 35 walks and 76 strikeouts.

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SPORTS



Browns make it official,
put Crennel in charge
of rebuilding, Page 47

Notre Dame ends BC streak

Eagles suffer same fate as UCLA, others in South Bend

BY TOM COYNE
The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Boston College found out what top-ranked teams UCLA, DePaul and San Francisco learned in years past — Notre Dame isn't where undefeated teams want to play.

Colin Falls matched his career high with 23 points, and Chris Thomas added 19 points and nine assists as the Irish ended the fourth-ranked Eagles' 20-game winning streak and handed them their first loss of the season, 68-65 Tuesday night.

Boston College junior Craig Smith said the loss had nothing to do with the pressure of trying to stay undefeated. The key was the Irish caught the Eagles a little off guard with their zone defense, then shot 51 percent themselves.

"They got us out of our offense because of their defense and due to the fact they also were hitting shots," he said. "When you're home, it's like that."

Smith, BC's leading scorer at 18.7 points a game, missed his final eight shots and finished 4-for-14 for nine points.

"We just made mistakes that allowed Notre Dame opportunities that we normally don't make. We have to learn from that," BC coach Al Skinner said. "The thing I'm most concerned about was our lapses on defense. We knew what we wanted to do, but at times we were just going out."

Skinner said the loss was disappointing, but it won't prevent the Eagles from accomplishing their goals.

"Being unbeaten, that's nice and all, but that's not our goal," he said. "Our goal is to be as successful as we can in the league. The fact of the matter is, we're in first place."

The Eagles (20-1, 9-1 Big East), playing their first game this season on national TV,



Boston College guard Sean Marshall (23) and Nate Doornekamp (13) watch from the bench as time runs out on their 20-game winning streak in South Bend, Ind. Notre Dame, which has a history of ending winning streaks at home, upset the No. 4 Eagles 68-65.

and top-ranked Illinois (24-0) were the only unbeaten teams left in Division I. The Illini are alone now, surviving a scare before beating Michigan 57-51 Tuesday night.

Louis Hinnant, who had 13 points, said the Eagles knew it would be tough to go un-

defeated in the Big East, even if they were the first team in conference history to start the season 20-0.

"We feel we don't have anything to hang our heads over," he said. "We just have to try to keep getting victories."

The Irish squandered an 11-point lead in

the final six minutes at No. 8 Syracuse on Saturday before losing 60-57. They held a 62-54 lead over Boston College, but the Eagles closed to 62-59 as Jared Dudley made two free throws and then converted a three-point play.

SEE STREAK ON PAGE 49



Nash scores season-high 33 points, but Suns' victory isn't sealed until Stoudemire blocks Kings' final shot

Page 48



Turin has picked up the pace, now on track for Winter Games in one year

Page 45



Teammate says McNabb was so ill in fourth quarter of Super Bowl that he couldn't call a play in the huddle

Page 47

Naples' Monaco exhibiting championship desire Page 46

